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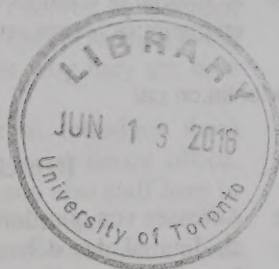
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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 41<sup>st</sup> Parliament

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

Monday 6 June 2016



Speaker  
Honourable Dave Levac

Clerk  
Deborah Deller

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Première session, 41<sup>e</sup> législature

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Lundi 6 juin 2016

Président  
L'honorable Dave Levac

Greffière  
Deborah Deller

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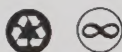
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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday 6 June 2016

## ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

Lundi 6 juin 2016

*The House met at 1030.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Good morning. This week, the House will be paying tribute to a deceased former member, Clifford Pilkey. I ask that members have him in their memory, in their minds, during prayers today.

Please join me in prayer.

*Prayers.*

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** In the members' gallery today is the former member from Kitchener Centre in the 38th, 39th and 40th Parliament: Mr. John Milloy. Welcome, John.

**Mr. Bill Walker:** In the members' gallery, former member Johnny O'Toole, and his son, Erin O'Toole, will be joining us later today.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I missed that one. The member from Parkdale-High Park.

**Ms. Cheri DiNovo:** On behalf of the member for Welland, I'd like to welcome page captain Mélina Dubé; her mother, Michelle Gagné-Dubé; father, Francis Dubé; sister, Alia Dubé; grandmother, Marielle Dubé; and grandparents Lisa and Ray Gagné. Welcome.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** I'd like to introduce two friends and former colleagues: Gerri Gershon, who is a school board trustee with the Toronto District School Board, and Judi Codd, with whom I served as a school board trustee. But most importantly, Gerri Gershon is the grandmother of page Nava, which is why they are here this morning.

**Mr. Jack MacLaren:** I'd like to introduce three guests: two staff people from our constituency office, Michael Bailey and Billy Morrison, and also staff here in our office at Queen's Park, Ashley McIntosh.

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I would like to welcome a number of people who are users of eSight who have come to see the proceedings at Queen's Park. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** There are two people here I would love to introduce. The first is Jeff Regan, from London. The brother-in-law of my executive assistant, Jeff Regan is one of the eSight people who are here. Welcome. I'd also like to welcome Landon Tresise. Landon has been a long-suffering and long-serving staff member of mine. Welcome to question period, Landon.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** We are joined here today by D-Day veterans, including Honorary Lieutenant General

Richard Rohmer, Allan Dick, Scott Brown and Andy Irwin. We also have veterans of the Second World War John Leitch, Joe Duffy, Fraser McKee, Gordon Casey, Jerry Rosenberg, Sheila Kingsley, June Rudd, Arthur Burford and other veterans and current members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Welcome.

The leader of the—oh, sorry.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, if I could also introduce, we have, from the Oro Chamber of Commerce, Greg Groen and Nadia Fitzgerald, and, from the Barrie Chamber of Commerce, my good friend Rod Jackson, Gaggan Gill and Victoria Stevenson.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The leader of the third party.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Thank you, Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce and welcome Sarah Lowe and Kevin Simms, who are staff at my constituency office in Hamilton and doing great work for the people of my riding.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School will be visiting this afternoon from Pickering. I'm looking forward to meeting with them, and I want to welcome them to Queen's Park.

**Ms. Laurie Scott:** I'd like to introduce Kristen Ellison, Candace Ellison, Alan Legault, Rachelle Mackay Parker, Jennifer Taylor, Venette Gerden Purcell, Brooke Froese, Sharon Gabison, Rhonda Dobson, Erin Lippens Syers, Tina Mack and Mieszko Filipowicz, here for the rally for autism.

**Mr. Wayne Gates:** I'd like to introduce Stela Trudeau, who is here from my riding with eSight eyewear today to show us this incredible technology. Welcome.

**Mr. Glenn Thibeault:** I'm pleased to welcome today our page captain today, Colleen Gauvreau from the great riding of Sudbury. With every captain comes a great team: Mother, Mary Sabo, is here today; father, Sam Gauvreau, who I believe was a page back in 1982; sister, Megan Gauvreau, who was also a page a few years back; grandmother, Antoinetta Sabo; and Anne-Louise Sabo. Welcome to Queen's Park today.

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** I'm pleased to welcome some university students who are gung-ho to learn about politics. Sitting with former MPPs John O'Toole and Rod Jackson are Matthew Cressati, Arian Moshimi, Alex Simakov and Julian Sconza. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Miss Monique Taylor:** I'm honoured to welcome parents of children with autism back to Queen's Park. Some of them are already said, but the list is long: Venette Gerden, Brooke Froese, Rebecca Haight, Sara

Haight, Gwen Seymour, Jennifer Taylor, Kristen Ellison, Candace Ellison, Jennifer Lalonde and Rachelle Parker. Welcome back to Queen's Park.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The Minister of Education.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** Me?

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Minister of Education.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** Thank you. Sorry about that—a bit of miscommunication there.

I'm pleased to introduce two constituents, Cathy Beitz and Hugh Montgomery, who are both legally blind and are here with eSight today.

**Mr. Todd Smith:** Good morning. I'd like to welcome, from the beautiful village of Stirling, Vickie Bateman and her mother, Clara Bateman, who are here for the tribute to the Battle of Normandy.

**Ms. Peggy Sattler:** I would like to welcome Jeff Regan, who is an electrical engineer from London West and here today as part of the eSight delegation. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Mr. Bob Delaney:** On behalf of the member for Brampton West and page captain Sahil Bhagat, I'd like to welcome his mother, Sonal Shah; his father, Akhil Shah; and his aunt, Kalpana Pariek. They'll be in the members' gallery this morning.

**Mr. Michael Harris:** I'd like to introduce Amy and Kenner Fee, Donna Baldwin and Jim McLean from the region of Waterloo. Also joining them are their service dogs Ivy, Jensen and Elvis. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** I'm very happy to introduce a very good friend of mine, Jenn Phillips, who is visiting Queen's Park today. Most importantly, with Jenn and her husband, Lucas, who works with me here at Queen's Park, is their son Bruce Malinowski, visiting Queen's Park for the very first time. He's all of five months old, and we welcome him to Queen's Park.

**Mr. Rick Nicholls:** I would like to introduce the vice-president of Campaign Life, Jeff Gunnarson; and, in the interest of time, nine summer interns.

**Mr. Han Dong:** I would like to introduce two young gentlemen that are doing a great job in my office: Mr. Robert Zhu and Mr. Roy Zhang.

**Mr. Steve Clark:** I want to introduce to members of the Legislative Assembly constituents of my riding from Leeds-Grenville who are here supporting the Ontario Autism Coalition: Sean Timmons and Carol-Anne and Tom Brandow. Welcome to Queen's Park.

1040

**Hon. Reza Moridi:** Please join me in welcoming Brian Mech, CEO of eSight, who is here with us with the staff as well as users of eSight.

**Mr. Jim Wilson:** I'm pleased to welcome to the Legislature today General Richard Rohmer, distinguished veteran in the Second World War, from my riding of Simcoe-Grey.

**Hon. Kevin Daniel Flynn:** It truly is remarkable today to welcome Mariette Ackermann, who is here to

watch us at Queen's Park today with the eSight folks who have joined us.

**Mr. Lorne Coe:** I'd like to introduce Catherine Bruner to the Legislature. Welcome, Catherine.

**Ms. Daiene Vernile:** You mentioned former MPP from Kitchener Centre John Milloy. He is here with a class from Wilfrid Laurier University: Professor Debora Van Nijnatten and students—just the first names—Berivan, Kanwar, Jozsef, Karyn, Abdi, Lucy, Jamieson, Brendan, Adriana, Chris and Emma-Lee. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** Good morning. It's my pleasure to introduce in the assembly today Shawn Brown. He's a constituent of mine in Nepean-Carleton. Shawn has ocular albinism, and it results in very little vision for him. However, he's here with eSight today to meet with various MPPs to discuss new technologies.

**Mr. Paul Miller:** I'd like to introduce Yvonne Felix from eSight Hamilton.

**Hon. Mitzie Hunter:** It gives me great pleasure to introduce four individuals from the Canadian Jewish Political Affairs Committee: Rachel Chertkoff, Jaime Reich, Piper Riley Thompson and Molly Harris. I look forward to meeting them after question period.

**Ms. Sylvia Jones:** Please join me in welcoming Diana Rojas, Alfredo Marrello, Simone Burgher and Christina Charalambous. They're here for the rally and autism.

**Hon. Michael Gravelle:** I'm very pleased, if not a bit excited, that two of my sisters are visiting Queen's Park, and my brother-in-law: my sister Susan Houghton, who's been here many times before—Susan, please wave—and my sister Sarah Gravelle MacKenzie from Winnipeg is visiting. Glen Murray, remember that. She loved—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Ahem.

**Hon. Michael Gravelle:** —and my brother-in-law Howard MacKenzie. Susan, Sarah and Howard, welcome.

**Mr. Arthur Potts:** It's a pleasure to introduce a constituent, Meagan Gilmore, who is also a technology pioneer using eSight to help her navigate.

I have two other constituents: Anette Chawla and her daughter, Ellen, who are here to have lunch with me today. I'm looking forward to that.

Let me also remind the members that we have Ontario Racing in the legislative dining room for a reception from 5 p.m. on.

**Hon. David Zimmer:** I would like to introduce and recognize Judi Codd, who is the president of the Willowdale Provincial Liberal Association.

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** I'd like to introduce somebody who is well known to you, in the members' east gallery: Chris Yaccato is here on behalf of the Ontario Lung Association. Welcome, Chris.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** As is the tradition of this Speaker, I apologize for earlier missing these gentlemen: From the 36th to the 40th Parliaments, the former member from Durham, John O'Toole, is with us today. Thank you, John. John, I'm going to blame the pillar, because I can't see you.

Also from the 40th Parliament, representing Barrie, former member Rod Jackson. Rod, thank you.

### D-DAY ANNIVERSARY

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** A point of order, the member from Simcoe–Grey.

**Mr. Jim Wilson:** Mr. Speaker, on this anniversary of D-Day, I believe you will find that we have unanimous consent to pay tribute to our veterans and the brave Canadians who fought and died in this campaign, with a representative of each caucus speaking for up to five minutes, followed by a moment of silence.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Simcoe–Grey is seeking unanimous consent to pay tribute and provide a moment of silence. Do we agree? Agreed.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Today, we honour the brave Canadians who fought and died on D-Day and during the Battle of Normandy in the Second World War. We do this to reflect on how much we owe our war veterans, the greatest generation, and to teach future generations about the importance of this act of remembrance.

I remember, growing up, hearing stories from my grandfather, who was in the United Kingdom during the Second World War. My grandmother, who I introduced last week, the one who had just turned 102, gave birth to my father during a bomb raid during the Second World War. I think every family has stories they hear from loved ones, these stories about heroism, the struggle that they shared, and how it resonates with all of us. I strongly believe that it is our responsibility to share these stories with fellow Canadians so that they too know the cost that was paid for our freedom.

So it is my privilege to stand here to express my sincerest gratitude to the veterans who are among us, and to those who have since passed away, for the sacrifices that they made for the cause of justice and liberty. We know that without this sense of duty and responsibility, our world would be a much darker place today.

There can be no doubt that the D-Day landings, which took place exactly 72 years ago, stand as one of the most important historical turning points of the 20th century. Not only were the D-Day landings among the most complex and challenging military engagements in history; they were also a defining moment for our country and the beginning of the end of a brutal and horrific war.

We now know that the success of Operation Overlord, by no means certain at the time, would seal the fate of Nazi Germany. We also know the special responsibility that was placed on Canadian shoulders during the operation. Our allies tasked Canada with taking Juno Beach. It was a task that our air, sea and land forces took with valour and determination.

The Royal Canadian Air Force bombers participated in the extensive bombing campaign in the hours leading up to the invasion. The Royal Canadian Navy deployed over 100 warships, manned by 10,000 Canadian sailors, to support the efforts on D-Day. This included mine-

sweepers that cleared the paths to allow landing craft to reach Juno Beach, all while under constant attack from German shore guns.

The 3rd Canadian Infantry Division and the 2nd Canadian Armoured Brigade then landed at Juno Beach, where they faced a formidable enemy with superior tanks and weapons. But they broke through the Nazi defences, establishing a beachhead. They pushed further inland than any other Allied army that attempted to land during D-Day.

As American historian Stephen Ambrose noted, “Insofar as the opposition the Canadians faced was stronger than at any other beach save Omaha, that was an accomplishment in which the whole nation could take considerable pride.”

Ultimately, our forces suffered 5,500 casualties during the Normandy campaign. By the end of the first day, 359 Canadians had lost their lives on Juno Beach, 574 were wounded and 47 were taken prisoner. We honour their sacrifice.

Canadian soldiers would go on to fight throughout western Europe, helping liberate the Netherlands and Italy. Indeed, Canadians went on to fight alongside our allies until the final victory was achieved, and returned home having secured Canada’s reputation as a courageous country and a reliable friend.

Many of our veterans returned home to Ontario and laid the foundations for the growth and development that our province would experience over the next several decades. Today, the Legions they helped establish continue to be important gathering places for veterans and the community.

Without the dedication of our veterans, it is clear that Ontario would not be the same great place that it is today. Please know that your sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Once again, I extend my sincerest thank you to the veterans who are here with us today and who took the time to travel to Queen’s Park. Thank you for your sacrifice, your courage and your bravery. Your service has made our province and the world a better place. We shall not forget.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further tribute?

**Mr. Jagmeet Singh:** It’s my tremendous honour to share my thoughts on this very important day on behalf of our leader, Andrea Horwath, and all New Democrats.

June 6, 1944: Today is the 72nd anniversary of this very pivotal moment in this very important part of our history. The event is also known as D-Day. It marks one of the largest seaborne invasions in the history of the world, and as has already been said, it was the turning point in this battle.

1050

It is important to note that Canada had a tremendous participation in this action: 14,000 Canadians went ashore on Juno Beach. Put in perspective, a country of only 11 million had contributed one million soldiers—men and women—in uniform. It’s a mark of our spirit as Canadians. It’s a mark of our ability to punch well above our weight.

Canadians suffered great loss; there was terrible suffering. We must remember this great loss and this terrible suffering, but we have to remember the legacy that Canadians left. Canadians are known around the world for their tremendous fighting spirit—their indomitable spirit—and it's something I am truly honoured to be here to share with you. I have to share with you, as well, that we are tremendously honoured that our veterans are here today, and we acknowledge them and thank them so very deeply for their sacrifice.

It's important to keep in mind that Canadian soldiers, and all Allied soldiers, weren't fighting a war of conquest. They weren't fighting a war to expand territory. They weren't expanding their domain. In fact, this was a war based on three very powerful principles: Those who gave their lives gave their lives for the protection of democracy, of freedom and of justice. That is the legacy our Canadian soldiers and all soldiers left behind, a legacy of making their contribution to defending those principles in the face of fascism; in the face of the horrible actions of Nazi Germany. This was our stance in defence of these very powerful principles, which are Canadian principles.

The veterans and soldiers who gave their lives fulfilled their duty to support these very powerful and important values. Our duty is to remember their sacrifice, their great loss, their indomitable spirit, and the cost and value of our important beliefs. We have a duty to remember. That is our duty that we must fulfill.

Moving forward, it is even more important that, like those who can tell their real-life stories of what they faced, what they suffered and their great victories, we have an even more important responsibility to keep their memories alive. Personally, my great-grandfather fought in both World Wars as part of the Sikh regiment in the British army. My father tells me stories about his sacrifice and the great commitment of people around the world to fight for justice, freedom and democracy.

The actions that were contributed by Canadians reverberate to our current day. Those who gave their lives made our society stronger, more vibrant, more free. They fought in the face of hopeless odds, and that is one of the elements that makes the Canadian story so powerful: The losses suffered by Canadian regiments are among the most in the entire British component of the forces that attacked. They show that spirit, that dedication to the important principles we all hold so dearly, and they gave their lives to defend those values.

So, at the minimum, we must come together every year to remember their sacrifices, to remember their commitment, to remember their dedication. It is truly an honour for all of us in this House to share our thoughts on this important day to commemorate their sacrifice and to commemorate those lives. I'm truly honoured to be able to share my thoughts today on behalf of our leader and all New Democrats. Lest we forget; we must always remember.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further response?

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** The Tragically Hip is not the only great band to come out of Kingston. One of my

favourite songs, growing up, was sung by the Kingston Trio. You may remember it:

Where have all the flowers gone?  
Long time passing.  
Where have all the flowers gone  
Long time ago  
Where have all the flowers gone  
Young girls that picked them, every one  
When will they ever learn?  
When will they ever learn?

I rise today, both humble and grateful, to pay tribute to an important moment in time, June 6, 1944: D-Day and the pivotal invasion of Normandy.

It was a day of extreme bravery and tremendous loss. It was a day that would ultimately lead to the end of a terrible war and the destruction of a tyrannical empire that threatened the peace and stability of the entire globe. Fourteen thousand men of the 3rd Canadian Infantry Division hit Juno Beach as part of the largest seaborne invasion in history. Many were seeing their first combat action of the Second World War. They represented all regions of Canada, the east and the west.

On the eve of D-Day, General Henry Duncan Graham Crerar, commander of the Canadian army, conveyed this message to assault forces preparing for battle: "I have complete confidence in our ability to meet the tests which lie ahead. We are excellently trained and equipped. The quality of both senior and junior leadership is of the highest. As Canadians, we inherit military characteristics which were feared by the enemy in the last Great War. They will be" even "more feared before this war terminates."

General Crerar, who was born and raised in my beloved Hamilton, was right. No one who considers the events of the first hours of D-Day can fail to be impressed by the accomplishments of the Canadian assault battalions. Due to overcast skies that morning, most of the elaborate support fire failed, leaving infantry combat engineers and armoured troopers to overcome the enemy by direct fire. It took incredible courage just to keep going. Words cannot do justice to the individuals who rose to the challenge and led assaults on deadly enemy positions.

Despite landing last and facing heavy resistance, Canadian forces reached further inland that day than any other nation participating in the D-Day assault. But let us pause for a moment and imagine those solemn minutes right before the landing craft gates opened on the beach sectors dubbed Mike and Nan. With the sounds of bombs exploding and bullets deflecting off armour, imagine that moment when a man must reach deep inside his soul, come to terms with fate and make the decision to run into a hail of enemy fire, ready to lay down his life for the betterment of future generations. Three hundred and forty Canadians died that day, June 6, 1944, with the Queen's Own Rifles from Toronto suffering the most casualties.

In the days and months that followed, at Caen and onward to Falaise, 5,000 more Canadian men would make

the ultimate sacrifice. The men who died were more than just uniforms with names; they had stories, loved and were loved, and had plans for their lives after the war.

We stand here today a free nation, these privileges earned by the soldier and donated to all of us. They traded their tomorrows for our todays. It's impossible for us to comprehend the sacrifices made, not just by those who perished on foreign battlefields, but by those who survived and came home. Thank you.

As the sands in the hourglass leave us standing here today with fewer and fewer of our brave heroes left to honour and thank, what can we do? What must we do? What I believe it is our duty to do is to never, never forget, and to learn. The comfort we grant our veterans is the assurance that we recognize the sacrifices made and our vow to let no generation of Canadians ever forget, for it is only by accepting the advice of our veterans that there is no glory in war, only sacrifice and suffering, that we can avoid another generation paying the same price.

1100

I'll leave you with another quote from General Crerar, who said, "War is so very truly hell, and this yard-by-yard fighting finds it at its worst. The gains are so small when it comes to distance—it just resolves itself into a case of counting corpses; if we have fewer than they, it's a 'victory.'"

That's one hell of a measuring stick, isn't it?

To those D-Day veterans joining us today, thank you.

Back to flowers: May the flowers of remembrance and appreciation for all who served in the name of freedom continue to bloom in our hearts, for that would be truly the most important victory of all.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I thank all members for their heartfelt comments. I would ask us to rise for a moment of silence in order to honour those that perished, those that survived, and all family members in celebration of the anniversary of the Battle of Normandy.

*The House observed a moment's silence.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** It is now time for question period.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** My question is for the Premier. Not much this government does surprises me anymore, but when I learned that reporter Brian Lilley had an FOI that showed the Premier handed out two contracts worth nearly \$1 million to David Herle and his company, the Gandalf Group, I was shocked.

Let's not be mistaken. This is the same David Herle who co-chaired the Premier's election campaign, and that is the same Gandalf Group that is the Liberals' personal and preferred polling company. David Herle is being rewarded for his political work with nearly \$1 million of taxpayers' money.

Does the Premier have an ounce of ethics left? Does the Premier think it is acceptable to hand out \$1 million worth of contracts to her Liberal pals and cronies? Does the Premier think that's acceptable?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** The member opposite will know that market research and polling companies have been used by governments traditionally. In fact, there are at least six other companies that have contracts. Forum Research, Ipsos Reid, Strategic Counsel, Ekos Research, Environics and Harris/Decima all have contracts with government.

All of that market research and public opinion research conducted by the government is procured through a fair, transparent and competitive process. Every company has to be qualified, has to be a vendor of record and has to compete for a project with no fewer than five competitors. The final decision about which vendor is best suited for a project is made by a committee of at least three non-partisan public servants. That's the process that all companies undergo.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Again to the Premier: The Liberals and this Premier will do absolutely anything to hold onto power. The only thing the Liberals care about is their own political survival.

The FOI showed that there was one contract—one contract—that towered above all others. That was the contract to David Herle and the Gandalf Group. This wasn't a normal government tender. The money came directly from the Cabinet Office, essentially the Premier's personal slush fund. This information was only revealed because of an FOI.

I shouldn't have to ask, but I will: How many other of these contracts are there? How many more contracts is the Premier hiding? Can the Premier tell this Legislature how many contracts her government and all the ministries have given to David Herle?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** As I said, there is a process whereby any polling or marketing research is procured. All governments, including former NDP and PC governments, have conducted market research. It's market research that allows us, for example, to understand the impact of a campaign like the Who Will You Help? campaign, the ad campaign that is demonstrably changing attitudes about sexual assault and violence.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I may have to move quickly if I'm not going to get a response when I ask for generic order. I might move to individuals very quickly.

Carry on.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Just on that campaign, we know that before the campaign, 37% of Ontarians felt they had an obligation to intervene when witnessing—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Leeds–Grenville, come to order.

Carry on.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Thirty-seven per cent felt they had an obligation to intervene when witnessing sexual harassment, but Ipsos Reid did a survey and now we know that that number has increased to 58%. So we understand that there actually has been an impact. That's the kind of market research that has been done.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Again to the Premier: There's about a million reasons why no one in Ontario is going to believe this spin. Mr. Speaker, the Premier has no cabinet minister to blame for this. The Cabinet Office is under her direction. David Herle is her precious friend. This was her decision to make.

The Cabinet Office shouldn't be the personal piggy bank for the Premier's cronies, even if you call it a process. The Premier can't hide behind—this was not an open and transparent process. According to Brian Lilley, senior Liberals who know how the Cabinet Office works disputed the idea that this process was completely non-partisan and not subject to political direction directly from the Premier. So that means the Premier directed nearly a million dollars to her friend. Look up at the parents today, Madam Premier. That money could have gone a long way to help the children with autism.

This might just be the tip of the iceberg. I repeat: How many other contracts like this are there? It is—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock.

Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Governments do market research. Governments do market research to discover and find indications of the impact of their policies.

Forum Research has contracts across government of more than \$2 million; Ipsos Reid, nearly \$2 million; Strategic Counsel, \$373,000; Ekos Research, \$172,000; Environics, \$164,000; Harris/Decima, \$122,000.

The fact is, governments of all stripes do market research. It's responsible to do so. Those decisions are made in terms of a process that is competitive. There have to be five vendors. A choice is made by public servants. It's not a partisan process, and, as I say, governments across all political stripes do market research.

#### AUTISM TREATMENT

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Again to the Premier: The government can heckle all they want, but I was disgusted when I heard the member from Mississauga–Streetsville heckle last week and say that Melanie Palaypayon should have answered the phone. To blame his slow-motion

apology on Melanie Palaypayon not being able to answer the phone is absurd. Did the member consider for even a second that Melanie was with her son, who has autism, instead of waiting by the phone for this slow-motion apology? Did he consider that Melanie might have had to take care of her son, Xavier, with therapy, or that she simply needed to be with him?

1110

None of this—none of this—is Melanie's fault. In the end, responsibility rests with two people: the member and the Premier. Mr. Speaker, one of those two people has belatedly apologized. Will the Premier apologize to Melanie Palaypayon?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, I've been very clear that our job, as members of this Legislature, as representatives of community, is to work with our constituents, to talk with our constituents. I apologize to constituents who feel that they have not been able to access a member.

But we have, on this side of the House, been talking to parents consistently. The member has apologized for this particular incident. My understanding is that he is working to set up a meeting with the family.

The changes that we are making, the additional \$333 million that we are putting into the autism program, is to help children who have been sitting on waiting lists, who have not been getting service, to go through a transition. We want every child in the province who has autism to have the service that they need, to have the intensity of service that they need, and to have that in a seamless transition.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, again to the Premier: I want the Premier to think about Dallas from Barrie. She is the mother of Mitchel, who has autism. Dallas's life is consumed by taking care of Mitchel and her other kids. There is nothing she loves more. But her dedication means that Dallas can't work and therefore hers is a one-income family trying, struggling, to get by. They do their best to help Mitchel and her other children, but it has led to some tough decisions. For the last month, they've had to shut off the gas at their house. That means no hot water, no warm showers.

Mr. Speaker, I still don't understand how the Liberal government can turn their backs on these families. How can Liberals do this to Dallas and families like hers?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, the entire reason that we are investing more than \$330 million—additional dollars—into the program is to make sure that kids who are sitting on a list not getting service will get service. So all of the Dallases and the Mitchels in Ontario are exactly the people that we are working with to try to make sure that they get the service they need.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Leeds–Grenville, second time.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** So far, 545 of 900 families have had a meeting with their service providers to work through the transition, to make sure that they are

moving into service that previously they would not have been able to access.

That is the point of the transition. I understand it's a change. I understand that it's a challenge. That's why every family is going to be working to make sure that they're getting the service that they need and they go through a transition, so that their children aren't sitting on a waiting list not getting service.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, again to the Premier: The new money is a shell game. This is a cut: 2,200 kids are kicked off the list. And there may be new money two years down the road?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. Come to order.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Member from Etobicoke North.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, this new money hypothetically might kick in two years from now. The families are out of luck today.

But it's not too late. Look at the parents of these children here today. Some 93% of the children currently getting IBI treatments are older than five years old. Now they'll have their treatments taken away. Many of those children and their parents will be outside, protesting those cuts.

The Premier knows autism doesn't end at five; neither should the IBI treatment. Mr. Speaker, today the Premier can make a difference to thousands of families. She can do the right thing. A very clear question: Will the Premier announce today that she will reverse the cuts and honour these families, do the right thing and fund IBI?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. Be seated, please. Order.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Start the clock.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Order. I'm now ready to move on to warnings, if that's what you want.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** These are some of the most vulnerable kids in the province, and we know that. That's exactly why it is so important that all of these kids get the service and the treatment that they need. It is so important for these families. That's why the meetings with the families and the work on the transition are happening right now.

I need to make sure that the Leader of the Opposition understands that this is a new \$330 million-plus. This is money on top of \$190 million that is already in place. This kind of investment is the kind of investment that his party consistently votes against.

But we know that it's very important that we make these investments now, because there are children who have been sitting on waiting lists while the biological

window closes for intensive treatment when it's most effective. We need to get that money to the kids to get the service now and help the families through the transition, so that those kids can flourish. That's what this is about.

## AUTISM TREATMENT

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** To the Premier: IBI therapy can change a child's life. It can mean the difference between a child with autism being able to communicate with the world around them or not. Autism doesn't end at five, and neither should IBI therapy.

Parents are making their fourth trip in four months to call on the Premier to stop her cuts to autism therapy. Will this Premier listen to those parents this time?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Investing a new \$330 million-plus is not a cut. That is additional funding. It's a huge investment. We know that autism doesn't end at five. We know that it is extremely important that children get tailor-made programs that meet their needs.

I look up into the galleries and I see families who are dealing with kids with autism, who love those kids and want to make sure that they get service. That's exactly why we're putting this new money into the system.

I also see providers in the gallery who understand how important it is that you have a tailor-made program for children. That's what this is about. That's what this transition is about. That's why more than \$330 million is being invested, so all of those kids can get the service they need.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** I'm sure that most of the parents here at Queen's Park would rather be at work, would rather be with their kids or engaged in their normal day-to-day activities. But instead, they've travelled to Queen's Park from all across Ontario for the fourth time in four months to fight for their kids and their kids' futures.

For showing dedication to their children, they have had the police called on them by the member for Mississauga—Streetsville and, again, this weekend, by the Liberal Party of Ontario at their nomination meeting in Scarborough.

The Premier forced her MPP for Mississauga—Streetsville to apologize to these parents. Will she now do the right thing, as the leader of the Ontario Liberal Party, and issue an apology to the parents of children with autism who had the police called on them yesterday by her party?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** It's very important to me that people who have something to say publicly have the opportunity to say it. I asked the question this morning, whether the Liberal Party had called the police during the nomination meeting. That was not the case. It was just not true.

There was a traffic control and crowd control issue. When there are large gatherings, it often happens that police need to be involved. The point is that the parents who felt that they needed to express themselves had the opportunity to do so as people went into the nomination meeting.

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In terms of listening to parents, it is extremely important to me that the parents in the audience understand that we have been doing that, and I'll give a perfect example. The whole issue around direct funding, which has come up in all of the meetings that I have had with parents—and that the minister has had, and that I know many of my members had—we are looking at direct funding as an option, as something that we need to do more of. I'll say more about that in the supplementary.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Children across Ontario should be getting the supports they need so that they can succeed, so they can express themselves and be fully engaged in their families and in school, and be able to grow up and achieve their goals. As one mother said when she visited Queen's Park, without this therapy that her son needs, "I will never know what his true potential was or what it could have been."

Autism does not end at five, and the need for IBI therapy for some children does not end at five either, regardless of what the Liberals are trying to tell parents of children with autism today and have been telling them since they brought the new program forward. IBI therapy simply should not be arbitrarily ended at five by this government or any other government, Speaker.

Will this Premier do the right thing, stop calling the police and, instead, ensure that children with autism have the therapy that they need to reach their full potential?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** That's exactly—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** That's exactly why we're making this investment, Mr. Speaker. That's exactly why children need to go through an assessment.

As I said in my previous answer, as we talk with parents, as we talk to the coalition and the alliance, it's clear to me, as we look at the options, that we need to look more carefully at the direct funding option, the \$8,000 that is going to many parents to go through this transition. That is a form of direct funding, and we need to look at continuing that as one of the options.

Of course the need for intense treatment like IBI doesn't end for some children, but that's why we need to have an assessment. As Dr. Peter Szatmari said, who is the chief of the Child and Youth Mental Health Collaborative between CAMH, SickKids and U of T, it is so important to personalize intervention services for children with ASD. That is the point: personalizing it and putting

more money in, so that more children can have the service that they need.

## ELECTION FINANCES

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My next question is also for the Premier. It took several weeks of pressure by opposition parties, editorial writers and experts, but the Prime Minister of Canada has listened and agreed not to ram through changes to Canada's election laws using his parliamentary majority.

Will the Premier of Ontario follow the Prime Minister's lead and agree not to use a parliamentary majority to ram through changes to how Ontario's democracy is funded, and agree to a committee structure similar to the one approved in Ottawa?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** I know that the leader of the third party knows that there is a difference between these issues. On the one hand, you're dealing with an issue in terms of electoral reform where there is no consensus, where it's highly contentious. There are no models that there's a consensus on across the country. When we talk about fundraising reform, there are models. There's a large degree of consensus. We can look at the federal model, we can look to other provinces and we know where that consensus is.

Now we want to go out and consult on the draft legislation and make sure that we get input. We hope that the third party will take part in that process in a full and collaborative way.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** In Ottawa and here in Ontario, Liberal governments are changing how our democracies work. In Ottawa, the Liberals agreed that the committee changing the rules would have to work collaboratively and that no party could make any unilateral changes. Apparently, the Prime Minister of Canada understands the fundamental making of a democracy and how important it is for all parties to be engaged.

Will the Liberal government here at Queen's Park follow the lead of the federal Liberal government, put aside the interests of the Liberal Party of Ontario, and agree that one party shouldn't be able to make unilateral changes to the basics of our democracy?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** The leader of the third party will remember that when we went through the electoral reform process here in Ontario, there was a select committee, there were citizens' assemblies held across the province and there was a referendum in which the entire population of Ontario took part, because on that issue there was not consensus. There was a high degree of contention around different models. We determined that that was the process that needed to be undertaken, and it was.

There is a broad consensus across party lines and across jurisdictions on fundraising rules. We are now working to reform the fundraising rules—to catch up, in fact, to other jurisdictions. We look forward to all of the input that we'll get in the consultation around the prov-

ince. And as I say, unlike to this point, we hope that the third party will take part and will do so in a collaborative manner.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** The Premier and the government seem intent on a reform process that will serve the best interests of the Ontario Liberal Party rather than the people of Ontario, a process that will have little credibility outside the Liberal caucus room. We can actually change that, Speaker. It is never too late to do the right thing.

New Democrats are putting a motion forward this afternoon offering a constructive solution: a committee made up of four Liberals, three Conservatives, two New Democrats and one Green Party member. That structure actually reflects the popular vote in 2014 and would ensure that any amendments at committee would have to have the support of at least two parties in order to pass.

Will the Premier of this province keep the deck stacked in favour of the Liberal Party or will she actually do the right thing and agree today to making our democracy more democratic?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Government House leader.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** This is nothing but deflection on the part of the NDP, because one thing has become very clear out of this entire process: There is one party that is definitely entrenched in protecting the status quo, and that is the New Democratic Party of Ontario. At every stage of the process, they have thrown more hurdles, more objections, than anybody else. They refuse to engage. They refuse—

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** And she's running more fundraisers.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The deputy House leader will stop taking advantage of a turned-on microphone, second time.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I can't believe that you're talking while I'm standing.

Carry on.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Speaker, the NDP refuse to engage in a democratic process by which we have an opportunity to consult with Ontarians. They voted against a motion that would allow members of this Legislature to work all through the summer and to visit as many towns and cities in this great province to hear from Ontarians as to what kind of electoral financing reforms we need to do.

The NDP needs to leave the status quo behind, stop doing private fundraisers and engage in the consultative process so that we can reform—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

New question.

#### AUTISM TREATMENT

**Ms. Sylvia Jones:** My question is to the Premier. As of last month, Kelly McDowell's daughter has been kicked out of IBI therapy and is now on a waiting list for

ABA. Let me repeat: Kelly's daughter has been kicked off of IBI and is now on a waiting list.

Kelly's daughter and thousands like her will have to wait for the minister's new program, using a service that is known to be not as effective as IBI. After almost 40 questions, four rallies and numerous debates, will the minister reverse her decision and allow children over the age of five to access IBI therapy?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Children and Youth Services.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** I want to thank my critic for the question. I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the parents who are here and folks from the alliance and the coalition. It has been very valuable and important to hear their voices as we move forward, as the Premier and I have indicated. There is room for input and ideas in moving the new program forward.

We are taking action on a number of fronts, including establishing the autism implementation committee. That is a very important advisory committee, where the voices of parents, clinicians and advocates—and I want the voices of youth there, either directly or indirectly, working with our child advocate to make sure that we get this right.

When it comes to children who have been in IBI therapy, we know that it is the decision of a clinician to determine the plan going forward. We will make sure—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Hamilton Mountain, second time.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** —that families have the right support, whatever that clinical assessment is.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Sylvia Jones:** Your idea of support is putting children back on wait-lists. It's not working. The experts don't believe you. The parents don't believe you. The children don't believe you. The child and youth advocate doesn't believe you. Do the right thing, Minister.

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One concerned parent wrote to the minister and the Premier. She said, "You say you have a new program that will be up and running in 2018, so why is it our children can't remain where they are until that program is up and running? You say your MPPs and the agencies are giving parents all the information that will make this transition as smooth as possible.... If you honestly think we are getting the information then you truly do live in a world of fantasy."

Parents want to see a real plan, not one that leaves them stranded until 2018. I ask the minister again: Please, reverse your decision and allow children over the age of five access to IBI. Just do it.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Minister?

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** Speaker, it's important to mention that every single family affected by this transition is receiving communication from their service pro-

viders. The Premier already mentioned that over 545 affected families have had those meetings. The things they are talking about include the go-forward treatment plan, what services to use and how to use their direct funding, if they're eligible for that.

It's also important to know that families can continue to access a range of programs that have already been in place, whether that is rehab services, respite services, March and summer break camps or other programs offered through Autism Ontario.

Once families whose child has come off the IBI list have exhausted the direct payment of \$8,000, we are going to work very hard to make sure they move quickly into directly funded—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

### AUTISM TREATMENT

**Miss Monique Taylor:** My question is to the Premier. Parents of children with autism have come to Queen's Park yet again, begging this government to listen to their concerns. The government continues to say that no child is being removed from service and therapy and that every child will move into immediate service. I just want to be clear: Just because you say something over and over and over again, it doesn't make it true.

Speaker, we have seen the discharge letters—  
*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock.  
Finish, please.

**Miss Monique Taylor:** We have seen the discharge letters. On this side of the House, we know that every child matters and that all children, regardless of age, should have access to services that we know they need to thrive.

Will the Premier listen to a coalition of voices coming out against her plan to remove children over the age of five from IBI therapy and the waiting list?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please.  
Thank you.  
Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, our plan is to move children into the service that they need. Our plan is to help kids who are not getting service to get service. Our plan is to have 16,000 children who are not getting service, get service.

I understand that we are in the midst of a transition right now. I understand that children and families are being asked to go from one process to another. But our plan is to help kids who are not getting service to get the service they need, and our plan is to make sure the children who are getting service continue to get the intensity of service they need.

That's our plan. That's why \$330 million-plus is being put into the system: to make sure that children across province get the service they need.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Miss Monique Taylor:** She can call it whatever she likes, but her government made a mess of this plan, and parents are here to tell it to you again.

Speaker, this is about priorities. Internal documents reveal that almost 80% of the Liberals' so-called historic investment won't happen until after the next election. The sham of this government's new autism program is that it promises more money, but it actually delays the investment while forcing thousands of families to sacrifice their children's future. This government is actually taking away service from children over the age of five while having no plan to make substantial investments until after 2018.

It's not just the opposition that is begging you to listen; it's a broad coalition of voices. Please, Premier, please do the right thing. Please make the decision to grandfather these kids. Give them the service they so desperately need.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please.  
Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Children and Youth Services.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** To me, the current wait times are unacceptable. The long spaces, the wait times for therapy: that's unacceptable, Speaker. We are taking children off wait-lists, that are going to grow to about five years by 2018, and getting them some immediate therapy support.

We are looking at our options going forward, whether that's direct funding or other services, and we are very appreciative of those voices that have come forward. They are actually helping us and offering to be part of the autism advisory implementation committee. That's going to happen very soon.

Meanwhile, my commitment is to all the families with children with autism who are affected to make sure they get the information they need from their service provider and from this government so that those children feel well supported as they move through this transition.

### CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

**Mr. Peter Z. Milczyn:** My question is to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Minister, I know that you're hard at work on the transformation of corrections in Ontario. Adding X-ray body scanners to every institution over the next two years, hiring more staff and developing new mental health training for correctional officers are all important steps that will improve conditions for staff and inmates.

Last year you announced the construction of a regional intermittent centre at the Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre designed to house intermittent offenders, which, when operational, will add new capacity to the correctional system.

After the success of the Toronto intermittent centre in my riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore in reducing contra-

band and improving security at the Toronto South Detention Centre, I'm pleased to see that the government is moving ahead with the building of this intermittent centre in Elgin–Middlesex–London.

Mr. Speaker, through you, can the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services please provide an update on the work that's taking place at the Elgin–Middlesex Detention Centre?

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** I thank the member from Etobicoke–Lakeshore. Speaker, my most important priority as minister is the safety and security of our staff and inmates. That is why, as part of our transformation of corrections, we have been constructing a 112-bed regional intermittent centre on the grounds of the Elgin–Middlesex Detention Centre in London, Ontario. This new centre builds on the success of the Toronto intermittent centre and is the next step in our strategy for intermittent offenders who are serving 90-day sentences, typically on weekends.

Housing intermittent offenders in their own facility will help to continue to improve conditions at EMDC. For example, it's an efficient and dedicated way to address capacity pressure by increasing the number of available beds, cutting down on overcrowding and improving staff and inmate safety.

Also, a separate facility will help prevent contraband from being introduced into the main facility by intermittent offenders who return to their communities during the week.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Peter Z. Milczyn:** Thank you to the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services for the answer.

I know that all Ontarians, specifically those in southern Ontario, will be happy to learn about this new facility being built at the Elgin–Middlesex Detention Centre and that it will be soon operational. This will be an important step in continuing to improve conditions in our institutions related to capacity and also, along with the addition of an X-ray body scanner, will help reduce contraband.

But, Minister, I've heard you say in the past that the transformation of corrections can't be about building more jails, that it needs to be about finally breaking the cycle of reoffending. Members of my community and Ontarians across the province know that that is what will make our communities safer places.

Mr. Speaker, through you, can the minister please provide an update on what he is doing to transform corrections in Ontario?

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** The member from Etobicoke–Lakeshore is absolutely right: Building safer communities across Ontario can't be about building more jails. It needs to be about actually reducing the demand for our jails. That means we need to work closely together with all of our corrections partners to look at evidence-based solutions to the improvements that need to be made.

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Putting “correctional” back into the correctional system means working to break the cycle of reoffending.

That is why we are focused on increasing rehabilitation programming in our correctional facilities. We are also working closely with our community and correctional partners to deliver this important programming. That is also why we are conducting a thorough review of our segregation policy to ensure that segregation is truly used as a last resort.

These are transformational changes, and they will not happen overnight, but I can say that we are working closely with all of our corrections partners to improve our system and build safer communities for all.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Ms. Laurie Scott:** My question is for the Premier. Week after week, there are human trafficking instances reported across the province. In 2011, this government touted a paltry investment of \$1.95 million over three years, but an FOI revealed that, of the \$1.95 million, the Ministry of the Attorney General only invested \$190,000 in community agencies between 2011 and 2013 specifically for victims of human trafficking. In 2011, Manitoba invested \$8 million in its anti-trafficking programs. It is shameful that this government barely invested \$200,000, which is less than what a trafficker can profit from just one victim in a year.

Will the Premier now admit that the insulting amount that was promised was actually never even spent?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister responsible for women's issues.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** I know one of my colleagues will want to share the supplementary with me. But I do appreciate the question because, as the member opposite knows, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and I are bringing forward a human trafficking strategy this month. It is very important we do that because of the serious nature of this issue and the complexity of it. We have held a number of consultations on human trafficking across the province.

We've looked at what we're investing already in terms of human trafficking. We do that at the community level. We do that at the provincial level. I know the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services have a number of programs that they already invest in, as does the Attorney General, in terms of supporting victims of human trafficking. I'm very pleased that we're going to bring this forward. It's going to be very survivor-focused, and we are going—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. Supplementary?

**Ms. Laurie Scott:** A trafficker preys, manipulates, drugs and assaults their victims, who are on average 14 years old. That's the reality. They are our children. It's the largest-growing crime. It's more profitable than guns or drugs. The girls next door are reusable commodities, and make no mistake, they are brutalized over and over.

If past history predicts future behaviour, it's clear that the government strategy will not have any meaningful in-

vestment. The 2016 budget confirms that there is no new money. It is not building Ontario up; it's tearing the lives of our children apart.

How much longer will our girls continue to be abandoned by this government?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** To the Attorney General.

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** Human trafficking is a tragedy. My ministry takes it very seriously, so we have invested. In 2011, my ministry committed \$1.75 million over three years as part of an initiative to combat human trafficking. Funding went towards programs that support victims of human trafficking and to the development of a province-wide online training program for front-line service providers working with victims of human trafficking. The remainder of the funds were used for existing victim support programs and services and to ensure that these services are available to victims of human trafficking.

This government is investing and will continue to invest, contrary to what they had done when they were in power.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** My question is to the Premier. Public dollars are being used for partisan advertising in this province. The Auditor General saw a recent ad and said that she had concluded "that the primary objective of this ad is to foster a positive impression of the government. This ad would not have passed" her "review prior to the act's amendment on June 6, 2015."

This Premier is planning to restrict political advertising on just about every issue in the six months prior to the election campaigns going forward. Why is partisan government advertising the exception?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I will remind the member opposite, actually, that we're the government that brought in legislation around partisan advertising, and we brought it in because of the practices of the previous government, where the Premier of the day was front and centre—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** —where the Premier of the day was front and centre in ads.

We are, it is true, giving people information about what this government is doing. The climate change ad is an extremely important piece of public information. I think it would be hard to argue that action on climate change is a partisan issue. If the NDP wants to argue that taking action on climate change is a Liberal initiative, so be it. It's the greatest threat that's facing mankind.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Supplementary?

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** I'm glad the Premier mentioned climate change, because if a group of concerned citizens

wanted to run an advertisement six months before an election saying that all parties need to do more about climate change, they would face significant restrictions by her government. If a group of parents wanted to run advertisements months before an election saying that children with autism need better supports, they would face significant restrictions. But if the government runs ads that the Auditor General says are essentially self-promotion, they can spend as much as they want, completely drowning anyone else out.

This seems like it is more about shutting down anyone criticizing the Liberals than it is about election fairness. Why does this Premier plan to clamp down on non-partisan advertising by advocacy groups and citizens of this province while she will continue to allow the government to spend as much as it wants on partisan advertising?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Government House leader.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Mr. Speaker, it's very interesting how the NDP is choosing to debate the draft legislation that is before the committee for public hearing here in the Legislature while they have refused at every stage of the process to engage and participate and give their feedback when that draft legislation was written.

That is why we have taken the unprecedented step of taking the draft legislation and have referred that legislation to the committee after first reading—it has not yet even been debated in the House, Speaker: so that we can hear from Ontarians across the province and be able to improve upon the legislation, the draft bill.

I urge the member that I hope she stops worrying about her vacation planning, which she has been talking about in the committee, and actually take the time and travel the province, listen to experts, listen to Ontarians so that we can amend that bill, we can make it stronger and bring it back here in September for second reading debate.

#### AIR-RAIL LINK

**Mr. Han Dong:** Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation. Last year today, our government announced the Union Pearson Express, the first of its kind in Ontario. The UP Express has been providing reliable and efficient service for those looking to travel between Union Station and the Pearson International Airport.

Since its launch date, however, we have received some criticism from media and the opposition members about the services. Some have been concerned about the price of fares, some have been concerned about the low ridership, and still others have been concerned about the use of the service more generally.

Mr. Speaker, with today marking the first-year anniversary of launching the Union Pearson Express, can the minister please provide members of this House with a ridership update?

**Hon. Steven Del Duca:** I want to begin by thanking the member from Trinity-Spadina for that wonderful question.

Today does mark the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Union Pearson Express, a service that our government is rightly very proud of. This is a service, to remind the House, that was delivered both on time and on budget. Since the Union Pearson Express launched in 2015, it continues to offer passengers predictable and reliable service to and from the airport, with stops along the way.

Speaker, members of this House will recall that we announced a new fare structure earlier this year, and we are already seeing positive results with this change. The ridership doubled in the first few weeks following the announcement of the new fare structure, tripled within six weeks, and now, more than three months later, we are seeing averages of 8,200 riders per weekday on the Union Pearson Express.

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Ridership continues to increase week over week, thanks to the action that we've taken and thanks to the advocacy of a number of members on this side of the House.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Han Dong:** I want to thank the minister for his response. Those living in my community of Trinity–Spadina will be very happy to hear that 8,200 people a day are choosing to use the UP Express.

I know that the UP Express was originally launched to provide air travellers with efficient service to the Pearson airport. However, last week, due to some TTC service issues, many in my community chose to take UP Express to get to work on time.

Now that the fares for stops between Pearson and Union are better aligned with existing GO fares, I believe that more and more commuters are using the service.

Can the minister please tell the members of this House, especially the member from Hamilton East–Stoney Creek, more about the commuters using the UP Express?

**Hon. Steven Del Duca:** I want to thank the member from Trinity–Spadina for the follow-up question. I also want to thank the opposition members, Speaker. You hear the excitement and the energy and the support that's coming from those on the other side of the Legislature for the Union Pearson Express.

The member from Trinity–Spadina is 100% right: Following some technical issues on the TTC just last week, we saw many riders jump onto the Union Pearson Express to get to their destinations on time. Because the UP Express is faster, more reliable and less expensive than other direct airport-to-downtown modes of transportation, we are actually seeing commuters using the UP Express on a more regular basis. In fact, just over 20% of the UP's ridership base is commuter-driven.

We are pleased to see both commuters and air travellers taking advantage of the service, but we know that our work is not yet done. We'll continue to work with Metrolinx to build ridership by improving wayfinding and building awareness.

But over the last year, it's clear to us that people who use the Union Pearson Express fall in love with it. I would encourage every member on all sides of this House to—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

New question.

## HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Mr. Michael Harris:** My question is to the Premier. Waterloo region has been long blessed with some of the best health care this province has to offer. Yet government foot-dragging on a four-year-old funding promise to St. Mary's hospital is forcing cardiac care patients to make alternative arrangements. The quality of care at St. Mary's has long drawn patients to Kitchener, but without promised funding improvements, they're at a crossroads.

Back in 2012—yes, 2012—this government promised funding to build an electrophysiology suite, and yet St. Mary's continues to wait. It has been four years. As government spends millions on TV ads to boast about health care investments, demand for cardiovascular services at St. Mary's has soared by 25%.

Will the Premier tell us if she will continue to neglect the people of Waterloo region and St. Mary's hospital in denying them their long-promised EP suite?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** I appreciate the question. It's information that I had received, and I had a good discussion with the member from Kitchener Centre, who has expressed the same interest in moving forward with this important cardiac development.

I have to indicate that my ministry is looking closely at this issue, working with the hospital, working with the local LHIN. It's great to see a strong advocate as well in the gallery, John Milloy, who has advocated for quite some time for these increases in services.

Mr. Speaker, I'm happy to follow up with the ministry. I'll follow up with the members who have engaged me, including in question period this morning, with regard to future developments for this important service.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Michael Harris:** Yes, and as the minister mentioned, the former member for Kitchener Centre had actually made that announcement—he'll remember—but it was four years ago—four years ago—he did so.

While they've waited to deliver their promised funding, St. Mary's cardiac care wait times have become the highest in the province for some procedures—almost double that of other facilities. Patients are being forced to head elsewhere for treatment. Cardiac care physicians recruited by St. Mary's for this specific program are tired of waiting, and they're heading for the exits. Government delays are having a direct impact on the health care treatment in Waterloo region, and government doesn't seem to care.

Speaker, our patience has run out. Government has had four years. Will the Premier commit today to end the

waiting game and deliver the cardiac care funding that was promised four years ago?

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** I have to say that I'm surprised, because with this question I would have expected at least the member opposite, if not his party, to have supported us in the budget. The budget contained elements that precisely respond to these sorts of questions and these sorts of requirements, not just on the immediate maintenance and renovations, which we've spoken about over the last couple of weeks and which we've increased to \$175 million annually, but the \$12 billion in capital investments over the next 10 years to allow us to make these sort of investments, which I know are important for St. Mary's. And there are other hospitals in the area that we've been working with as a ministry, through the LHINs, looking at their cardiac programs as well.

Again, this is an issue that has been discussed between myself and the member from Kitchener Centre. I know that it's an important issue for her. I'm glad that the member opposite has also had the opportunity to raise it—not with me directly, but here in question period—and I'm happy to follow up with him.

#### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My question is for the Premier. On Saturday, I met with front-line health care workers and patients in North Bay. Liberal cuts have forced the North Bay Regional Health Centre to lay off over 350 nurses and hospital workers in recent years, to close beds and to cut services. It means patients leave hospital quicker and go home sicker. The hospital is understaffed, and nurses and hospital workers are stressed and overworked. The people of North Bay are paying the price for four straight years of Liberal hospital funding freezes.

How can this Premier defend her record of cutting 350 workers from the North Bay hospital?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** First off, I want to address the opposition claims that they're having 350 nurses and health care workers being cut. This number actually reflects staffing changes dating all the way back to, and including, the amalgamation in 2011 that resulted in a brand new hospital. So the figures that she's representing actually reflect a period of almost six years. Many of the staffing changes, as a result of amalgamation, were a result of positions no longer required, including many administrative roles.

In fact, since 2011, the number of layoffs that have occurred at the North Bay Regional Health Centre amount to 21.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** This is a brand new hospital that was built with fewer beds than existed before it was built. That's why there are fewer staff. Over three years, this government has been cutting 350 people out of the

health care needs of the people of North Bay. It is the silent—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock.

The Minister of Government and Consumer Services, come to order. The Minister of Education, come to order.

Carry on.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Health care is the silent crisis of this Liberal government. The Liberals are forcing hospitals across Ontario to cut patient care, to close beds, to lay off front-line workers, all because the Liberals refuse to fund our hospitals properly.

North Bay knows what that looks like. The CEO of the hospital says that he's been forced to cut \$35 million in just over three years and that the hospital will face even more challenges this year because funding is not keeping up with inflation, population or growing costs.

Patients and families are paying the price for the Premier's cuts to health care. When will this Premier start listening to the people in North Bay and across Ontario and stop the deep Liberal cuts to hospitals and our health care?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Minister?

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** Mr. Speaker, I can think of few things worse and not demonstrative of leadership than unnecessarily and incorrectly creating anxiety among patients in North Bay. If she cared so much about—

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** You should talk to those people, Eric. It is a disgrace.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Order. The leader of the third party will come to order.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs will come to order.

Finish, please.

1200

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** Last week, it was the member from Nipissing who erroneously spread a rumour, claiming that the cancer care centre at that hospital was going to close and the hospital is in crisis mode. If the third party cared so much about the hospital in North Bay—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Leeds–Grenville is warned and the member from Nipissing, second time.

You have a wrap-up, please.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** If she cared so much about the hospital, why didn't she even bother to call or visit the hospital when she went to North Bay?

That hospital has an emergency department with wait times of less than half the national average, a lower medical readmission rate than the provincial and national averages, an 86% occupancy rate, over 3% of patients—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Start the clock. Order. Minister of Health, come to order.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Hamilton Mountain is warned. The leader of the third party, second time.

New question.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Mrs. Cristina Martins:** My question is for the Minister of Education. Our government recognizes that schools are the hubs of our communities across Ontario. They are places where children gather to learn and play.

Since 2003, our government has invested about \$13.5 billion in school infrastructure, including 758 new schools and more than 735 additions and renovations. In addition, last April our government announced \$120 million in new funding, dedicated to building safe, high-quality licensed child care spaces in schools across the province. I understand that so far, \$90 million has been allocated, resulting in almost 3,200 new licensed child care spaces coming soon to communities across Ontario.

Minister, I was pleased to join you during Education Week to make an important announcement at the Waterfront School, a vibrant community hub here in Toronto. Speaker, through you to the minister—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

**Mrs. Cristina Martins:** Please tell this House how our government—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I stand; you sit. Minister of Education.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** I want to thank the member for her important advocacy for community hubs, including the Bloor-Dufferin site in her riding.

Our government is committed to supporting the use of schools as community hubs, which integrate a range of needed services under one roof to better serve the communities. This year, Ontario is investing nearly \$90 million to expand child care and child and family support services in schools and to create spaces in schools for community use.

As part of this investment, our government will provide \$20 million to create spaces for new child care and family support programs in schools; \$18 million to retrofit existing space within schools to open up more child care; and \$50 million to renovate our surplus school space to make it available for new community hubs.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mrs. Cristina Martins:** Minister, it is great to hear that our government continues to improve community access and increase services offered in schools.

Ontario's nearly 5,000 schools offer the ideal location for community hubs as many of them are the heart of their community. As the minister referred to and mentioned, the Bloor-Dufferin site in my riding of Davenport is a great example of a great location for a vibrant com-

munity hub—and the one that we visited during Education Week, the Waterfront School, a vibrant community hub that also includes a neighbourhood centre, school and child centre all in one location.

All these investments are part of our government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number one priority: growing the economy and creating jobs. Minister, can you tell us, including my constituents in Davenport, how our government is making it easier for community partners to create community hubs in schools?

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** One of the things we're doing is, we're expanding eligibility for school capital funding to include building replacement space for community partners in new schools or additions if the original school where their community hub was located is closed.

Some of other things we're doing, Speaker, is making it easier for community partners to create community hubs by giving them additional warning if they could have a future opportunity to purchase or lease surplus school space. We've added to the list of people who will be notified. The list now includes local health integration networks, children's mental health agencies, First Nation and Métis organizations, and in northern Ontario, district social service administration boards. They told us that only municipalities were notified, and we've added the DSSABs at their request.

We're also making sure that they have longer to respond. All these organizations will have an additional 90 days so that they have longer to try and work out arrangements with the school board.

## NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Pursuant to standing order 38(a), the member from Kitchener–Conestoga has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question given by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care concerning St. Mary's hospital. This matter will be debated tomorrow at 6 p.m.

## COMMITTEE SITTINGS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The government House leader on a point of order.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Thank you, Speaker. I believe we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice with respect to private members' public bills.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The government House leader is seeking unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice. Do we agree? Agreed.

Government House leader.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Speaker, I move that, notwithstanding the order of the House dated Monday, May 30, 2016, the Standing Committee on Justice Policy be authorized to meet on Monday, June 6, 2016, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 149, An Act to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on the jury recommendations made in the inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer; Bill 180,

An Act to proclaim a Workers Day of Mourning; and Bill 182, An Act to proclaim Ontario Down Syndrome Day.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Naqvi moves that, notwithstanding the order—

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Dispense.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Dispense? Dispensed.

Do we agree? Agreed. Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** There are no deferred votes. This House stands recessed until 1 p.m.

*The House recessed from 1207 to 1300.*

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** It's my pleasure to welcome Carly Pettinger to Queen's Park. She's from Conestoga College. Welcome, Carly.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### NURSES

**Mr. Randy Pettapiece:** With not even a moment's notice, any of us could suffer a stroke. When that happens, our life literally depends entirely on a team of professionals who can respond quickly and capably.

On May 24, I participated in Take Your MPP to Work day, an initiative of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario. It was a valuable opportunity. We followed the path of a typical stroke patient from the time they enter the emergency room door to the time they're in rehab and every stage in between. Speaker, at every stage, we depend on RNs, the people with the right skills, to be there for us at the right time. And time is of the essence; as the nurses often say, "Time is brain."

I want to thank Catherine Walsh, Tasha Vandervliet, Anita Gras and all the nurses at the Stratford General Hospital whose work is making a difference in the lives of patients. I also want to recognize the nurses at all our hospitals in Perth-Wellington. We are so fortunate to have their care and expertise in every corner of our riding.

To the government, I say: Let's listen to them. Let's work to address their concerns. Let's hold on to the RNs we have and hire the new ones we need. The future of health care depends on it.

### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** Last week, my office learned that St. Mary's hospital, which has a record of nearly 100 years serving the people of Kitchener-Waterloo with excellent care, has been trying to secure capital funding for its hybrid EP cath lab for surgery and diagnosis. This concept was approved four years ago both by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Finance, but despite this, the funding has not materialized. The room for this lab has been sitting empty.

There are 11 full-service regional community hospitals in Ontario. St. Mary's is the only one of those 11 that is left waiting for this critical lab. In less than two years, Barrie was able to apply for, be approved for and receive funding for their cath lab. At St. Mary's, the diagnostic catheterization wait-list is between six to eight weeks, while other communities have same-day service. The people of Kitchener-Waterloo shouldn't have to suffer because of this kind of service disparity.

I know the member from Kitchener Centre has been fighting hard to get some commitment from the ministry. I know the member from Kitchener-Conestoga is supportive of this important regional service.

We are simply asking for what every other cardiac regional program in Ontario already has. Volume has consistently increased by 10% to 20% each year, and we need to catch up with the rest of the province.

I worry that this hospital is currently stretching human capital resources. Physicians in the area have expressed concerns that, if this continues, patient care will be compromised.

I'm asking today, on behalf of St. Mary's, that the ministry release the funding that was committed four years ago. Let's get this done. Our community cannot afford to wait any longer.

### MUHAMMAD ALI

**Mr. Lorenzo Berardinetti:** As I'm sure we're all aware by now, the world lost a giant this past weekend. Muhammad Ali, considered by many, if not most, to be the greatest boxer of all time, passed away at the age of 74. It's nearly impossible to overstate the global impact that Ali had. He meant so much to so many people.

He was a beautiful boxer, where he cemented his legacy with memorable bouts like the "Fight of the Century," the "Rumble in the Jungle" and the "Thrilla in Manila." I even recall doing a class presentation in third grade on Ali's first fight with Smokin' Joe Frazier. Even though I was really too young at the time to understand it's importance, I vividly remember everyone making a huge deal about it.

But, really, it's what he did outside the ring that will leave an impact on the world. He was a civil rights campaigner, a poet and a fierce advocate for world peace; a truly iconic figure who transcended the boundaries of sport, race and country; and an inspiration who stood up for what he truly believed, even when it meant sacrificing nearly everything he'd worked for in his life to achieve.

His combination of talent, charm, intensity, competitiveness and compassion captivated the world in a way that won't ever be seen again. He was and always will be the greatest.

### EARL SHUMAN

**Mr. Jim McDonell:** I rise today to pay homage to a staunch advocate for transparency and consumer rights who passed away on Friday, May 6. Dr. Earl Shuman, as did many Ontarians, invested in the purchase of a new

home. His investment, however, gave rise to claims with Taron Warranty Corp, the monopoly provider for new home warranties in Ontario.

Throughout the years, Dr. Shuman advocated for things many Ontarians take for granted. He demanded that the laws related to building new homes be respected. He sought to have those laws enforced. He fought to ensure consumers could be confident that their family's largest purchase was secure and would serve them well throughout the years.

Dr. Shuman's efforts also highlight the spirit that makes our province a great place to live and settle. He used his experience with Taron and the Licence Appeal Tribunal to help other homeowners facing the same struggle.

I am confident this House will agree, Speaker, that the spirit of diligence, perseverance and aiding others is an inspiration to Ontarians from all walks of life. Dr. Shuman's tireless advocacy for transparency, dependability, accountability and consumer protection should inspire us all to do better by consumers in Ontario and to always keep their interest at heart.

Dr. Earl Shuman, thank you, and may you rest in peace.

#### POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

**Mr. Jagmeet Singh:** Brampton is the ninth-largest city in Canada and desperately needs a university. Universities have been proven to have an amazing social impact on cities. They are innovators for developing greater culture and arts. They're able to have a very powerful economic impact. They also encourage innovation and investment.

Now, universities are well proven as city builders. They encourage the growth and revitalization of a city. As the ninth-largest city in the country, Brampton certainly needs a university. Sheridan College is on its path, it's on its way to becoming a university and we encourage that development. But Brampton needs a stand-alone university as well.

My personal story is that I wouldn't be here today as a deputy leader of a political party in Ontario but for my education. But it wasn't just the degree that I received; it was all the academic activities around my studies, the clubs that I was a part of and the activities that I participated in. I don't want other students to have a barrier to accessing education. In Brampton, sometimes it can take up to two hours to commute to the nearest university. There are costs associated with living in residence.

We need to ensure that students don't see a barrier to accessing education. It's such a large and vibrant city. We need to ensure that our students have access to education not only for the students but for the growth of the city. I encourage this government to work towards building a university in Brampton.

#### SENIORS' MONTH

**Ms. Soo Wong:** June marks the 32nd anniversary of Seniors' Month in Ontario. This year's theme is "Seniors

Make a Difference." I'd like to recognize seniors who make a difference every day across this province. Seniors are valuable members of our communities through their knowledge, experience, skills and energy. They volunteer extensively in organizations like Scarborough Hospital, St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Centre, the Centre for Immigrant and Community Services, the Agincourt Community Services Association and the Agincourt Rotary Club.

They also give generously. Research shows they make more charitable donations than any other age group. In my riding of Scarborough-Agincourt, there are many great agencies like the North American Muslim Foundation, Villa Elegance, Senior Guyanese Friendship Association, Carefirst and the Toronto Jinqiu Seniors' Association that provide quality care and services that keep seniors healthy, active, safe and independent.

June is one month when we can all recognize seniors province-wide. They make a difference in our community by being leaders, mentors, volunteers and engaged citizens. As we celebrate our seniors, we need to recognize and appreciate the contributions they make and continue to make in our families, workplaces and communities. Let us all take the time to celebrate and honour seniors for everything they do in making a difference in this province.

1310

#### RAMADAN

**Mr. Rick Nicholls:** The Muslim community plays an important role in the shaping and building of the free, peaceful and pluralistic province we all have the privilege to live in. Inshallah, the Muslim community does amazing work to enrich our beautiful province and I commend their continued efforts to promote cultural understanding and harmony.

Today we are entering the month of Ramadan, when Muslims all over the world are celebrating this blessed time with family, friends and the community. Ramadan is a blessed month of fasting, charity and doing good deeds for Muslims across the globe, and it's a beautiful glimpse into the lives of many Canadian Muslims.

It's inspiring to see everyone come together with the unity that this month brings along with it. This is a wonderful opportunity for Ontario, as well as many other Canadians across the globe, to learn and join in this holy month of purification and celebration.

May this month be filled with love and happiness and good health for all of those partaking in Ramadan.

On behalf of the Ontario Progressive Conservative caucus and my colleagues here in the Ontario Legislature, I wish all of you a happy and blessed Ramadan. Ramadan Mubarak. Shukran. Thank you.

#### COMMEMORATION OF EVENTS

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** It is my pleasure to rise in the House today and share several important occasions we are marking today.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who fought for our freedom 72 years ago today at the Battle of Normandy. What has now gone down in history books as D-Day, June 6, marks an important turning point for Allied forces in ending World War II. This day is especially significant as my father fought for the Polish navy on a British battleship and was present during that historic battle. While he was very lucky to come home safely, so many perished in the line of fire, sacrificing their lives for freedom.

Today is also the anniversary of the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, who passed away 125 years ago, on June 6, 1891. His passing is being commemorated today in my riding of Kingston and the Islands at the national historic gravesite at Cataract Cemetery.

Finally, I would also like to mention the wonderful celebration of the 47th annual Lviv Ukraine Folklore Festival. This event always offers the residents of Kingston and the Islands an unparalleled insight into the enchanting Ukrainian culture. Every year they ignite our senses with delicious cuisine, beautiful artwork and lively music. As a child, I remember watching the beautiful Maky dancers with wide-eyed wonder. A special thank you goes out to Nadia Luciuk, the chair of the Ukrainian pavilion, and her brother Lubomyr. Without them and their outstanding energy, this event would simply not have been possible to keep going for all of those years. Kingston and I are indebted to them for their passion in preserving Ukrainian culture and traditions.

Diakuju. Merci. Meegwetch. Thank you.

#### MEN'S HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further members' statements? The member for Beaches–East York.

**Mr. Arthur Potts:** Thank you, Speaker. Ramadan Mubarak to you and to the House.

I'm here to rise in support of men's health awareness week. As you'll remember, this is the subject of my most recent private member's bill, where we want to celebrate the week immediately preceding the third Sunday of June as men's health awareness week. June 19, which is the third Sunday, is of course Father's Day, so I'd like to take an opportunity to say happy Father's Day to all the fathers out there. I'll be thinking of my own father on that day when the time comes.

I had hoped that the House leaders would be able to get together and adopt men's health awareness week in this session before we recess this week. That hasn't happened. But, like any MPP here who could be disappointed with a private member's bill, I will persevere and maybe next year we can celebrate it.

For now, Speaker, I want to say that next week, which would be men's health awareness week, will be celebrated across the province. Brendan Shanahan, the president of the Toronto Maple Leafs club, has sent a letter in support of men's health awareness week to the Premier of Ontario, also noting that in the federal government they've given \$4 million over four years to

help promote it. The BC government has given \$5 million over five years to help promote men's health awareness week. And Justin Trudeau is releasing a video today where he talks about the few small things that men can do in their lives to make positive change, like using the Canadian Men's Health Foundation's YouCheck tool. Answer a bunch of questions about what's going on in your life, and it will make very positive recommendations about how you could change your life for the better.

Speaker, I will be celebrating men's health awareness next week because it's important, as we raise families and look after our businesses and friends, that every now and then we take a moment to think about ourselves, because quite frankly, we're worth it.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I thank all members for their statements.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Point of order.

Point of order, the member from Timmins–James Bay.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to move a motion without notice in order to create a non-partisan select committee on the changes to the Election Finances Act.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Bisson is seeking unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice. Do we agree? I heard a no.

#### HOUSE SITTINGS

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** Pursuant to standing order 8(e), I rise to indicate that no business is to be called during orders of the day tomorrow morning.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The minister's announcement indicates that we will not be meeting until 10:30 tomorrow morning.

#### STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

##### DEAFBLIND AWARENESS MONTH

##### MOIS DE SENSIBILISATION À LA SURDI-CÉCITÉ

**Hon. Helena Jaczek:** I rise in the House today to recognize June as Deafblind Awareness Month. Je prends la parole aujourd'hui à l'Assemblée pour souligner que le mois de juin est le Mois de sensibilisation à la surdi-cécité.

In the year 2000, June was proclaimed Deafblind Awareness Month across Ontario, so I was pleased that last year the federal government extended Deafblind Awareness Month to the whole of Canada. In fact, on June 2, the CN Tower was lit up red and white in honour of Deafblind Awareness Month. The month of June is chosen in part because it is the birth month of Helen Keller, who was a champion to people who are deaf-blind around the world. Her courage and determination were an enduring example of how, despite enormous challenges, all individuals can achieve great things.

Closer to home, we have our own pioneers in the deaf-blind community. In 1972, Mae Brown became Canada's first deaf-blind university graduate from the University of Toronto, and she accomplished that with the support of a remarkable woman, Joan Mactavish, who taught herself how to be an intervenor. Together, they accomplished great things.

Over the last year, I've had the opportunity to visit a number of agencies that provide services and supports to people who are deaf-blind, such as the Lions McInnes House in Brantford and the Bob Rumball Associations for the Deaf in Milton. I've met with staff and I've seen first-hand the care and personal attention individuals working in the sector provide to clients each and every day. The services and supports being provided to people who are deaf-blind are critical to their well-being, their daily activities and their future goals. Les services et les soutiens offerts aux personnes sourdes et aveugles sont essentiels à leur bien-être, à leurs activités quotidiennes et à la réalisation de leurs objectifs d'avenir.

At my ministry, we have made progress in the past few years to improve the intervenor services program. Intervenor services enhance communication between individuals who are deaf-blind and their community, using their preferred method of communication to assist them to live as independently as possible in their daily living activities. Since 2004, we have tripled funding for the program, and we have worked with the sector to establish a policy framework to define strong program principles, objectives, eligibility criteria and the scope of intervenor services. We are now focused on working with the intervenor services sector to develop a more consistent, fair and accountable approach to funding.

We have also forged a strong partnership with the sector through our Intervenor Services Human Resource Strategy, launched in 2014. Two weeks ago, I attended the second Intervenor Services Human Resource Strategy annual conference. The strategy is a broad, sector-led human resources project designed to increase recruitment and help develop the talent and the skills of intervenors and agency management staff.

For someone who is deaf-blind, communication barriers can seriously limit access to activities most of us take for granted, such as going to the bank or visiting the doctor. By breaking down these barriers, we're helping build a more inclusive Ontario, one in which all Ontarians have better access to their community. En éliminant ces obstacles, nous contribuons à bâtir un Ontario plus inclusif qui favorise l'accessibilité pour toutes les Ontariennes et tous les Ontariens au sein de leur collectivité.

In closing, I encourage all honourable members to participate in the activities of Deafblind Awareness Month, and to join our government in building a province where people of all abilities can participate to their fullest potential.

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**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further ministers' statements? Statements by ministries? The Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** I almost missed that, Speaker. Sorry. I was waiting for the opposition to respond to my ministerial colleague, but I know now it doesn't work that way.

I rise today to speak about the proposed Promoting Affordable Housing Act, which would amend the Housing Services Act, the Residential Tenancies Act, the Planning Act and the Development Charges Act.

Our proposed package of reforms would, if passed, help us to realize our vision of an Ontario where every person has access to an affordable, suitable and adequate home.

Housing and homelessness in this province is more than just about the bottom line. Decent housing is more than shelter. It provides stability, security and dignity. Housing isn't the problem; it's the solution.

Last week, the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association released its annual report. I want to take this opportunity to thank the ONPHA for their work and their advocacy for our most vulnerable. They, along with housing and poverty advocates across the province, have been telling us very clearly that the status quo is not working. Speaker, I want every member in this House to know that it is unacceptable if even one person has to wait for housing in this province. I believe that.

We know that there is a need for more housing. That's why we introduced the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy in 2010. It transformed the existing system to achieve better outcomes for those in need of housing.

This past March, I was honoured to announce our updated Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy. The update is bold and transformative and invests 178 million in new dollars over three years. It focuses on increasing the supply of affordable housing, supporting people, and ending chronic homelessness. It relies on partnership with the private sector, our municipal partners and the federal government.

Since I became minister, I have made it a priority to build strong relationships because I believe that we will achieve much more working together than we would apart. I believe the private sector can and must play a much larger role in providing affordable housing. We don't have a wing at the end of my office with electricians and bricklayers who answer the phone and say, "Three hundred units? Great, we're on our way." It's the private sector that delivers. We can leverage things, we can set up a climate that's positive for this, we can even find some ways, occasionally, to incent these things to happen, but government doesn't do it themselves. They rely on others.

During our consultation, we heard about the need to foster diverse, inclusive communities. To help reach this goal, we provided a range of planning and financial tools to help municipalities create more affordable housing. Today we are proposing changes to the Planning Act that would enable municipalities to use a new tool called inclusionary zoning. Inclusionary zoning could be used

to require developers to set aside a number of units as affordable housing.

I want to thank a couple of members: the member from High Park—

**Interjection:** Parkdale–High Park.

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** Parkdale–High Park—who has been an advocate. Also, I know the member by name very well, but the riding is Etobicoke–Lakeshore—Peter Milczyn, who has been so supportive of this. Peter, thank you. I'd thank you too, Cheri, if you were here, but you're not.

According to the city of Toronto's chief planner, Toronto could have built 12,000 affordable housing units in the last five years had inclusionary zoning been in place. They also could have used section 37 if they had wanted, but that's a little trickier. They chose not to do that.

We want to help municipalities ensure that they have a range of housing that will give their citizens better affordable housing choices.

Inclusionary zoning is just one of the many tools that the province is moving ahead with to increase the supply of affordable housing. Now, we know that different sectors have different perspectives about how inclusionary zoning should be tailored in Ontario. So, in the coming months, we will continue to consult with our stakeholders on the framework to support inclusionary zoning. That includes the development sector, municipalities, the federal government and other key ministry stakeholders as well.

We're also proposing changes to the Development Charges Act to exempt secondary suites in new homes from development charges at all. That'll make it possible for a young couple, maybe each earning \$40,000, who can't afford a \$600,000 or a \$650,000 house to acquire that home, sufficient in the knowledge that they have a projected revenue stream of \$17,000 to \$20,000. They could become homeowners. There would, as a result, potentially be a ripple-up effect. Secondary suites are a source of affordable rental units for many low- to moderate-income renters. These proposed changes would help to increase the supply and range of affordable housing options in Ontario communities.

Our proposed reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act and the Housing Services Act would, if passed, also help to modernize social housing. They would support vibrant, mixed-use communities and encourage a more healthy mix of rent-geared-to-income and market rent tenants.

By recognizing new and innovative forms of municipal housing assistance and increasing local flexibility to manage housing assets, we would empower our dedicated service managers who have all done 10-year housing plans, which is helpful, to provide assistance in a way that best meets their diverse needs.

Our proposed changes would also help to make rent-geared-to-income rules simpler and fairer. For example, tenants could not be evicted when they cease to be eligible for rent-geared-to-income assistance after paying market rent for 12 months or more. Currently, Ontarians

in need of rental assistance rely on various programs across the province, many of which are tied to specific units. So if you get a job somewhere else, you're almost in a prison; you can't leave because if you go somewhere else, you fall to the bottom of the list. This way, we're hoping to build a credit that is portable to people directly. Currently, that's the situation.

Over the coming months, we'll also be working with our municipal partners to develop a framework for a portable housing benefit that would allow people to have more freedom to choose where they live—closer to family, social support networks, schools and employment opportunities—because housing benefits should be paid directly to the tenant, with subsidies tied to the person and not to the unit. We believe this is the way to go.

These are just some of the reforms we are proposing to improve access to stable housing for our citizens. For the first time in a long time, I think all three levels of government have a shared sense of purpose. The stars are lining up, but there are still a few clouds in the sky that we've got to clear away. We do that by working together, talking together and scheming together, and giving expression to that shared sense of purpose together, so that we can serve the people who, on a good day, are really what it's all about for us.

We're going to work together. We're going to take meaningful actions to transform Ontario's housing system and end chronic homelessness in 10 years—now nine years, because it has been a year that we've been working on it, right?

Mr. Speaker, this panel of reforms will indeed help to achieve these goals. It's not the whole answer; we're still working on the whole answer. That takes a whole-of-government approach, and we're taking that approach to get this situation sorted out to the betterment of Ontario.

I urge all members, please, to support this bill. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** It's time for responses.

1330

## DEAFBLIND AWARENESS MONTH

**Mr. Randy Pettapiece:** I'm pleased to rise today to mark Deafblind Awareness Month. For 16 years, we have recognized Deafblind Awareness Month in Ontario to raise awareness about deaf-blindness. June is especially significant: It is the birth month of Helen Keller, one of the most famous deaf-blind individuals and a true inspiration.

I've been a member of the Lions organization for 30 years, and I well know the story of Helen Keller, who asked the Lions to become "knights of the blind" back in 1925.

Deaf-blindness combines varying degrees of both hearing and visual impairment. Individuals who are deaf-blind can experience challenges with communication and mobility. Many individuals are paired with intervenors, who are specially trained to act as a person's eyes and ears. Intervenors are such an important resource and help

individuals with deaf-blindness understand and navigate their environments. I would like to recognize the many organizations committed to improving the lives of individuals who are deaf-blind. Your work is appreciated.

Last week we recognized National Access Awareness Week. Again, I must stress the importance of accessibility. Deaf-blindness is a disability that is unique to each individual in terms of their abilities. We owe it to those who face both hearing and visual impairments to make our communities as accessible as possible.

As we mark Deafblind Awareness Month, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the thousands of deaf-blind Ontarians. Their determination and contributions to our community are admirable.

This week, I urge everyone to learn more about the abilities and struggles of deaf-blind individuals. Let's commit to ensuring our communities are accessible for those with hearing and vision impairments.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** Ontario is facing a housing crisis. I do want to commend the minister for at least recognizing that point, but thus far, his approach hasn't worked.

Every year the wait-list for social housing hits a record high. There are now 171,000 Ontarian families waiting for affordable housing. Since the government released the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy in 2010, the list has grown by approximately 20,000 families. There are units boarded up because they need so many repairs they are unlivable, and housing money has been diverted to pay for trips all over the world. Clearly, the plan isn't working.

The government continues to create policies that increase the cost of living in Ontario, including the cost of housing. Families that were barely able to get by now can't make ends meet without assistance, seniors are being forced out of their homes, and now the government has introduced a bill which proposes to put the cost of affordable housing on renters and new homeowners.

In other jurisdictions, inclusionary zoning has included government incentive programs to ensure that the increased cost isn't just piled on to the neighbours, but this government still doesn't know if there will be programs here or what they will look like. The government doesn't know who will be eligible for the units or how the price will be determined.

This bill says inclusionary zoning will be mandatory for prescribed municipalities, but the government doesn't think they will use that section and they can't say who would be prescribed and who wouldn't. They don't know what the standards for these units will be or even whether they will be up to the municipalities or the province. In fact, the government started consulting on these major issues after they introduced the bill.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, Ontario is already facing an affordable housing crisis. We can't afford to get this wrong. The 171,000 families waiting for social housing

can't afford it, and neither can those Ontario families who are barely making ends meet. Housing affordability is a complex problem, but we need to take the time to consult and get it right.

### DEAFBLIND AWARENESS MONTH

**Miss Monique Taylor:** It's my privilege and honour to rise today on behalf of the NDP caucus to speak on Deafblind Awareness Month.

We are social beings. Our communication with others and the world around us helps us grow as individuals. We participate in our communities and we forge a life for ourselves that makes us what we are. Throughout it all, we rely very heavily on what we see and what we hear, and in truth, we take much of that for granted.

That is why it is important that we recognize June every year as Deafblind Awareness Month—June being chosen, of course, as we've heard previously from other members, to coincide with the remarkable life of a deaf-blind woman, Helen Keller.

Deaf-blindness is a unique condition. The Canadian Deafblind Association and the Canadian National Society of the Deaf-Blind estimate that it occurs in one in every 10,000 Canadians. According to DeafBlind Ontario Services, 7,000 Ontarians are deaf-blind. We should reflect on that, Speaker. Imagine for a moment the impact the loss of both sight and hearing would have on each and every one of us; 95% of what we learn comes through our eyes and our ears. That is the world that 7,000 Ontarians live in.

But thanks to the work that was started about 25 years ago by a group of parents of deaf-blind children, there is a network of supports that strives to ensure that all people who are deaf-blind live rich and meaningful lives. Key to this is the work of the intervenors, professionally trained individuals who mediate between the deaf-blind person and his or her environment to enable him or her to communicate effectively with and receive non-distorted information from the world around them.

Each deaf-blind person will have their own degree of deafness or blindness. As such, the work of the intervenor varies from person to person. Naturally, other senses, such as smell and especially touch, become much more important and facilitate effective, meaningful interaction. With ever-improving technologies, such as tablets and smart phones, intervenors are able to open up many more opportunities.

I want to recognize the excellent work done on behalf of deaf-blind individuals, particularly the families and the organizations that provide advocacy and the support of over 200 trained intervenors.

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** Good afternoon. I'm pleased to rise on behalf of the Ontario NDP caucus to respond to the statement from the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing on the update to the Long-Term Affordable Housing Strategy.

I don't think it comes as a surprise to anyone in this chamber that we have an affordable housing crisis in this province. We're long overdue to be doing something about it. In the six and a half years since the first strategy was initiated, the number of families in this province waiting for safe and affordable housing has grown to more than 170,000.

Look, I get it. Developers don't see the need or the profit in building affordable housing units. They can make more money constructing condos or townhomes or mini-mansions. They need a willing partner at Queen's Park to make incentives available.

There's nothing new about inclusionary zoning. We've been talking about it for years. The member for Parkdale–High Park has brought it forward five times.

I think it's appropriate at this point to read a poem called Homeless Eddie, written by Bill Mahoney from Steelworkers Local 1005 in Hamilton:

Your brother's sleeping on a grate  
You rush on by, can't hesitate;  
You say you'll never be that way  
And that the poor are here to stay.

I'm telling you, you better pray,  
Because poverty's one job away.

You've never been down and out  
Been so poor you want to shout;  
I just can't take it anymore  
As they throw you out the door.

Eddie came from the east coast,  
Was doing well he used to boast;  
Till Stelco took his job away,  
He's hoping to go home someday.

Jack was working on a farm  
Till he slipped and lost an arm;  
Now he's in a private hell  
Sleeping in a damn stairwell.

Bob can't read or write  
For every scrap he's had to fight;  
He sleeps in the park at night.  
Shouldn't housing be a right?

Mary's trying to ease the pain  
Of the demons she can't name;  
She hears echoes in her mind  
Of things better left behind.

The working class must not retreat  
Or we'll all be living in the street;  
And each would have a tale to tell  
Of what it's like to live in hell.

Speaker, that was written by Bill Mahoney, Steelworkers Local 1005, poet laureate from the city of Hamilton.

## PETITIONS

### HYDRO RATES

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads as follows:

"Whereas the price of electricity has skyrocketed under the Ontario Liberal government;

"Whereas ever-higher hydro bills are a huge concern for everyone in the province, especially seniors and others on fixed incomes, who can't afford to pay more;

**1340**

"Whereas Ontario's businesses say high electricity costs are making them uncompetitive, and have contributed to the loss of hundreds of thousands of manufacturing jobs;

"Whereas the recent Auditor General's report found Ontarians overpaid for electricity by \$37 billion over the past eight years and estimates that we will overpay by an additional \$133 billion over the next 18 years if nothing changes;

"Whereas the cancellation of the Oakville and Mississauga gas plants costing \$1.1 billion, feed-in tariff (FIT) contracts with wind and solar companies, the sale of surplus energy to neighbouring jurisdictions at a loss, the debt retirement charge, the global adjustment and smart meters that haven't met their conservation targets have all put upward pressure on hydro bills;

"Whereas the sale of 60% of Hydro One is opposed by a majority of Ontarians and will likely only lead to even higher hydro bills;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To listen to Ontarians, reverse course on the Liberal government's current hydro policies and take immediate steps to stabilize hydro bills."

I've affixed my signature as well.

### AUTISM TREATMENT

**Miss Monique Taylor:** I am pleased to stand once again to read in the thousands of petitions that constantly come into Queen's Park. They read as follows:

"Don't Balance the Budget on the Backs of Children with ASD.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government recently announced plans to reform the way autism services are delivered in the province, which leaves children over the age of five with no access to intensive behavioural intervention (IBI); and

"Whereas in 2003, former Liberal Premier Dalton McGuinty removed the previous age cap on IBI therapy, stating that Liberals support extending autism treatment beyond the age of six; and

"Whereas applied behaviour analysis (ABA) and intensive behavioural intervention (IBI) are the only recognized evidence-based practices known to treat autism spectrum disorder (ASD); and

"Whereas the combined number of children waiting for ABA and IBI therapies in Ontario is approximately 16,158; and

"Whereas wait-lists for services have become overwhelmingly long due to the chronic underfunding by this Liberal government;

"Whereas some families are being forced to re-mortgage houses or move to other provinces while other families have no option but to go without essential therapy; and

"Whereas the Premier and her government should not be balancing the budget on the backs of kids with ASD and their families;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to direct the government of Ontario to immediately ensure that all children currently on the waiting list for IBI therapy are grandfathered into the new program so they do not become a lost generation."

I couldn't agree with this more. I'm going to give it to page Mélina to bring to the Clerks' table.

### CURRICULUM

**Ms. Daiene Vernile:** I have a petition here with hundreds of signatures. It is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas for six years the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) listened to thousands of former students of residential schools and their families testify to the devastating legacy of this national policy of assimilation;

"Whereas the TRC calls upon 'the federal, provincial and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with survivors, aboriginal peoples and educators, to make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, treaties and aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for kindergarten to grade 12 students' (CA 62.1); and

"Whereas on July 15, 2015, Canada's Premiers indicated their support for all 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action and said they would act on them in their own provinces and territories;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario urge the government of Ontario to fully implement such a curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12."

I agree with this, will put my signature and will give it to page Huzaifah.

### EDUCATION FUNDING

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** It is my pleasure to introduce this on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario and to the Minister of Education, who is actually right in the chamber at this moment.

"Whereas the population of Stittsville is currently 31,000 residents and expected to grow to over 50,000 by 2021, and over 71,000 by 2025;

"Whereas Stittsville is the only community of its size in Ontario not to have a public high school;

"Whereas the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board ... loses over \$11,000 in per-student funding for every student who transfers to the Catholic English and French high schools in Stittsville;

"Whereas the projected number of school-age children (grades 7 to 12) in Stittsville (not including the new Fernbank developments) is projected at 2,435 for 2017, with steady increases in subsequent years;

"Whereas a public high school for Stittsville is the number one capital priority for the" Ottawa-Carleton District School Board; "and

"Whereas a public high school is required in Stittsville to meet the needs of the students now;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly to immediately provide the capital priorities funding required to build a public high school in Stittsville."

I wholeheartedly agree with this, affix my signature and hand it over to page Emily.

### GASOLINE PRICES

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I have this petition, and they keep coming by the thousands. I want to thank Mr. Ross Asaro, who is from Gogama. It reads as follows:

"Whereas northern Ontario motorists continue to be subject to wild fluctuations in the price of gasoline; and

"Whereas the province could eliminate opportunistic price gouging and deliver fair, stable and predictable fuel prices; and

"Whereas five provinces and many US states already have some sort of gas ... regulation; and

"Whereas jurisdictions with gas price regulation have seen an end to wild price fluctuations, a shrinking of price discrepancies between urban and rural communities and lower annualized gas prices;"

They "petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario" to:

"Mandate the Ontario Energy Board to monitor the price of gasoline across Ontario in order to reduce price volatility and unfair regional price differences while encouraging competition."

I support this petition, Speaker, will affix my name to it and ask page Colleen to bring it to the Clerk.

### WATER FLUORIDATION

**Mr. Bob Delaney:** I have a petition to the Ontario Legislative Assembly entitled "Update Ontario Fluoridation Legislation." I especially want to thank Dr. Sanjukta Mohanta of Meadowvale, and Dr. Lisa Bentley, whose practice is in central Mississauga. It reads as follows:

"Whereas scientific studies conducted during the past 70 years have consistently shown that community water fluoridation is a safe and effective means of preventing dental decay and is a public health measure endorsed by more than 90 national and international health organizations, including the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ontario Dental Association; and

"Whereas recent experience in Canadian cities that have removed fluoride from drinking water has led ... to a dramatic increase in tooth decay; and

"Whereas the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care urges support for amending the Fluoridation Act to ensure community water fluoridation is mandatory; and

"Whereas the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing urges support for the removal of provisions allowing Ontario municipalities to cease drinking water fluoridation, or fail to start drinking water fluoridation, from the Ontario Municipal Act;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Premier of Ontario direct the Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Health and Long-Term Care to amend all applicable legislation and regulations to make the fluoridation of municipal drinking water mandatory in all municipal water systems across the province of Ontario before the end of the first session of the current Ontario Parliament."

I'm pleased to sign and to support this petition and to send it down with page Sahil.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** I am aware that there are a number of members who want to get petitions in. There are six minutes left. You can abbreviate the petition if you'd like to allow more of your colleagues to participate.

#### HIGHWAY RAMPS

**Mrs. Julia Munro:** "Whereas the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury will continue to have robust growth of population and commercial activity in proximity to the Holland Marsh ... lands designated in the ... Greenbelt Plan and is situated along the municipal boundary between King township and the town of Bradford...;

"Whereas the Canal Road ramps at Highway 400 provide critical access for farm operations ..., delivery of materials and equipment...; and

"Whereas the loss of that critical access to Highway 400 may threaten the significant financial benefits...;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the council of the corporation of ... Bradford West Gwillimbury hereby advises the Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, that the town does not support the elimination of the Canal Road ramps at Highway 400, and further, that the town requests that the duration of the temporary closure ... between Wist Road and Davis Road be minimized to the greatest extent possible during the Highway 400/North Canal bridge replacement project."

As I am in agreement, I have affixed my signature.

#### CAREGIVERS

**Ms. Peggy Sattler:** This is a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario signed by many residents of

London West. It was brought to me by my constituent, Rachel Buttgeig.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas there are over 2.6 million caregivers to a family member, a friend or a neighbour in Ontario;

**1350**

"Whereas these caregivers work hard to provide care to those that are most in need even though their efforts are often overlooked;

"Whereas one third of informal caregivers are distressed, which is twice as many as four years ago;

"Whereas without these caregivers, the health care system and patients would greatly suffer in Ontario;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to support MPP Gélinas's bill to proclaim the first Tuesday of every April as Family Caregiver Day to increase recognition and awareness of family caregivers in Ontario."

I affix my name to this, fully support it and will give it to page Colleen to take to the table.

#### CURRICULUM

**Ms. Ann Hoggarth:** "To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas for six years the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada ... listened to thousands of former students of residential schools and their families testify to the devastating legacy of this national policy of assimilation;

"Whereas the TRC calls upon 'the federal, provincial and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with survivors, aboriginal peoples and educators, to make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, treaties and aboriginal peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for kindergarten to grade 12 students' ... and

"Whereas on July 15, 2015, Canada's Premiers indicated their support for all 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action and said they would act on them in their own provinces and territories;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario urge the government of Ontario to fully implement such a curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12."

I agree with this petition, and I affix my name and give it to page Julia.

#### LONG-TERM CARE

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** This petition is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the current funding of long-term health care ... is not enough to cover the costs of resident care; and ...

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“Immediately increase funding to” long-term health care “for the purpose of increasing staff levels; and

“Begin a comprehensive review of the” long-term health care “regulatory standards ensuring current and future demographic needs will be met; and

“Develop a minimum level of per resident care, recognizing the increasing complex care needs of the aging demographic.”

I agree with this and send it down with Thomas to the table.

## POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER

**Ms. Jennifer K. French:** I have a petition here.

“Supporting the Inclusion of Probation and Probation and Parole Officers in Presumptive PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) Legislation under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act.

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas Bill 163 provides for WSIB benefits for a select few first responders diagnosed with PTSD; and

“Whereas MCSCS probation and parole officers and MCYS probation officers have been specifically excluded from Bill 163, despite overwhelming evidence that these front-line officers are exposed to primary trauma, secondary trauma and vicarious trauma often resulting in PTSD diagnoses; and

“Whereas the rates of assaults, threats and intimidation of corrections staff have increased by 2,750% in the period from 2009 to 2014; and

“Whereas Manitoba’s Bill 35 ‘Workers Compensation Amendment Act’ includes probation and probation and parole officers; and

“Whereas the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services has neither programs for the prevention of PTSD nor employee assistance programs ... nor wellness programs that specifically support and treat those workers diagnosed with PTSD or like symptoms;

“We, the undersigned probation officers and probation and parole officers, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario shall include probation officers and probation and parole officers in presumptive PTSD legislation under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act and that the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services creates programs aimed at PTSD prevention, along with employee assistance programs and wellness programs that address the mental health needs and occupational stressors related to trauma exposure.”

I wholeheartedly support this petition and I’ll send it with page Waleed.

## ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

**Mr. Arthur Potts:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, signed by thousands of residents across Ontario.

“Whereas Bill 45, schedule 3, Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2015 needs significant amendment to allow the existing industry the fair ability to function and serve those who choose vaping as a harm reduction option ...

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows ...

“To repeal item 3(1) ‘No person shall, in any place where electronic cigarettes are sold or offered for sale, display or permit the display of electronic cigarettes in any manner that would permit a consumer to view or handle an electronic cigarette before purchasing it ...

“And to repeal item 3(2) ‘No person shall promote electronic cigarettes,

“(a) in any place where electronic cigarettes or tobacco products are sold or offered for sale;’....”

I agree with this petition, and I leave it with page Daniel.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Unfortunately, the time for petitions has now expired. I would again remind members: There were a number of members who wanted to have petitions presented today, I gather, and were unable to do so. But when we run out of time, we run out of time.

I would also remind members that you can abbreviate your petition. You don’t have to read the whole thing. That would allow everybody to get petitions on. If you think of some of your colleagues who didn’t get a chance today—I would ask people to consider doing that tomorrow, perhaps.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS MODERNIZATION ACT, 2016

### LOI DE 2016 SUR LA MODERNISATION DES ÉLECTIONS MUNICIPALES

Mr. McMeekin moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill 181, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and to make complementary amendments to other Acts / Projet de loi 181, Loi modifiant la Loi de 1996 sur les élections municipales et apportant des modifications complémentaires à d’autres lois.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** I assume the minister wishes to lead off the debate? I recognize the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** Thanks very much, Mr. Speaker. I’ll be sharing my time with the member from Northumberland—Quinte West, my parliamentary assistant. I’m sure he’s going to be returning soon—I hope, or I won’t be sharing my remarks with him. I used to be an incurable optimist, but maybe I’m cured.

I rise in the House today to begin third reading debate on the proposed Municipal Elections Modernization Act, known affectionately around the world as Bill 181.

**Interjection:** Around the world?

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** Around the world.

I'll be sharing my time today with Lou Rinaldi, my parliamentary assistant and the member for Northumberland-Quinte West. Over the past year, I've had the pleasure of working alongside PA Rinaldi on the review of the act. He's an incredible man, I've got to tell you. There's no limit to his energy and to his ability to listen and to effectively respond to those he's meeting with. I think the world of him, as you've probably gathered.

**Mr. Bill Walker:** There he is.

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** He's a wonderful man, and I'd like to thank him for his support and leadership as we held consultations reviewing the Municipal Elections Act, to see how we could make it work better for Ontarians. Lou, thank you.

But before I turn the floor over to my parliamentary assistant, I am pleased to have the opportunity to discuss—in a little bit more detail than we usually discuss things here, at least from my perspective—the Municipal Elections Modernization Act, known as Bill 181.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** All over the world.

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** All over the world, as my colleague says.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud of Bill 181. I am proud of it. As a former small-town mayor, I know first-hand that municipalities really are the governments closest to the people. They provide front-line services like public transportation and recreation facilities. They deal with local issues like fixing roads and, yes, collecting property taxes—it doesn't get much more local than that.

Our communities need to be strong and vibrant places where people can live, work, raise a family and age with dignity—I just added that; it occurs to me at 68 that I should be adding things like that, right? For this reason, we want to help make sure that the rules governing municipal elections are clear, simple, and reflect the real and evolving needs of our communities.

The reforms we're proposing reflect the significant input we received from municipalities, community groups and the public at large. In fact, over the past year, we've had a number of conversations with Ontarians about municipal elections. The Municipal Elections Act is reviewed, as you probably know, following each municipal election to ensure it meets the needs of communities. This time, we've done a deeper dig on it and there's a little bit more change here than perhaps has been reflected coming out of other reviews.

1400

As you know, Mr. Speaker, last spring we launched a review to ask how we could make local elections work better while ensuring that they're still fair. The review of the Municipal Elections Act sparked a lot of public interest, I've got to tell you. We've had people like Dave Meslin on the ranked ballot, and Claire Malcolmson, who did a lot of really good work with the Democracy Watch group—really important input.

I'm also pleased to tell you that we received—hard to believe; wait for it—over 3,400 written submissions. I don't even get that much mail in my constituency office.

As part of the consultation, my ministry held a number of meetings with our partners, including the city of Toronto; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, affectionately known as AMO; and municipal clerks across the province. Two working groups were created to provide advice on technical issues because we wanted to be really on top of this: a ranked ballot working group involving municipal clerks, ranked ballot experts and advocates as well, of course, as the Association of Municipalities of Ontario; and a municipal voters list working group involving the Municipal Property Assessment Corp., the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario, current government ministries and Elections Ontario—a lot of people.

We heard many perspectives, including those on the subject of ranked ballots. I should point out that Oakville was the first council to adopt—unanimously, by the way—ranked ballots, and I suspect London may follow soon. That's what I hear, so we're just waiting to see. But of course, that will be something municipalities will have to address.

Many submissions stressed the importance of including a public consultation component in the ranked ballot framework. In fact, the legislation requires that, so we're being proactive there.

With respect to campaign finance, many submissions cited the need for greater clarity of campaign finance provisions and suggested simpler, clearer rules and prescribed forms—red tape stuff, clean that up.

On third-party advertising, the input varied. Some submissions asked for third-party advertising to be completely banned and some supported the development of a framework to regulate it.

On the topic of accessibility in municipal elections, we heard that we need to continue to enable municipalities to eliminate barriers that prevent voters from casting their ballots. We also heard of the success of alternate voting methods in some municipalities, such as telephone and Internet voting.

The accuracy of the municipal elections list was a common concern. Most election lists are a concern, no matter what level you're at, it seems. An inaccurate voters list causes significant challenges for voters, municipal staff and election administrators both leading up to and on voting day.

We also heard other suggestions such as shortening the municipal election campaign period—that was very common, by the way; I don't think anybody didn't make that comment, hardly anybody—and examining the requirements to become a candidate in order to help reduce the number of candidates who don't seem all that serious about running for election.

To sum up, Mr. Speaker, we heard that the rules governing how municipal leaders are elected needed to be more modern, more transparent, more accountable and flexible enough to allow for local choice.

But the discussions did not stop there. We heard hours of debate by members of all parties. Over the past few weeks, at standing committee, we have heard from a

number of individuals and organizations across Ontario proposing changes. Speaker, we listened. We listened.

After hearing these views and perspectives, our government brought forward amendments to the bill to make it even stronger. I want to thank all—

*Interruption.*

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** They're cheering outside for this bill right now. Can you hear them?

I want to thank all members of this House for their contributions to this bill.

Now, I believe any dialogue about modern municipal elections must include discussions on corporate and union donations. This is one of the areas where we made changes coming out of the standing committee. I applaud the groups and individuals that have fostered and pushed this conversation forward.

One of the changes we originally proposed under Bill 181 would have allowed municipalities to ban corporate and union donations, but only if their councils choose to do so. At standing committee, we heard that giving municipalities the option to ban corporate and union donations was a step in the right direction, but that we needed to go one step further.

So, to respond to what we heard and to align with strong action we are taking provincially on electoral finance reform, we brought forward amendments that would make it mandatory to ban corporate and union contributions to council candidates in every municipality across the province. The ban would also apply to contributions to school board trustee candidates. This change makes Bill 181 even stronger. It would create an even playing field for all candidates and encourage candidates to seek a broad base of support from within their constituency. A ban on corporate and union donations is something that the city of Toronto has had in place for some time—for the past two elections at least—and they seem to think it's working well.

The province also proposed similar changes provincially by proposing to ban donations by corporations and unions under the new proposed Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act. Boy, isn't that a mouthful. We recognize the need to be consistent in this area and extend the same reforms to the same citizens when they vote at the municipal level. Both provincially and municipally, the government is responding to interest in modernizing the democratic process.

Then we addressed third-party advertising. Throughout our consultation and debate, we have heard about the need to ensure that the rules governing how municipal leaders are elected are transparent, accountable and flexible enough to allow for local choice. To increase transparency in municipal elections, we are proposing a framework to regulate third-party advertising so as to increase accountability for advertisers and to ensure more fair and transparent support. This would include setting contribution and spending limits. Third parties would also have to specifically identify themselves on signs and advertisements. Candidates would not be able to direct a third-party advertiser on where they should focus their

efforts or what their advertisements should say. Sounds a little bit like the States, doesn't it, the super PAC; you know, candidates can't talk to—or they're not supposed to, anyway.

Corporations and unions would still be able to register as third parties and would be permitted to make contributions to third-party advertisers, but requiring them to register as third-party advertisers will provide greater transparency during the election period. We all want that, right?

During standing committee, we also brought forward an amendment to change the definition of third-party advertising—this is important—so that it covers only advertisements supporting or opposing candidates during an election. It would not affect advertising on issues. So if you want to fight for a clean environment, you can do that.

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The proposed definition of third-party advertising will allow charities and groups that do public outreach on issues as a matter of normal business to continue their issues-based advocacy work throughout the election period. We feel that's important, and we feel these amendments—so we listened again—will be important for this bill, will strengthen our bill.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is about striking a balance. We want to ensure that the rules governing municipal elections are consistent across Ontario. But we also recognize that all communities are indeed unique and there is no one-size-fits-all solution. By proposing a framework to govern third-party advertising and by changing the definition of third-party advertising, we hope to create more consistency around how local elections are run in Ontario while still remaining flexible to local circumstances.

Let me turn to the issue of ranked ballots—you know, government is as easy as one, two, three. If this bill passes, Ontario will become the only jurisdiction in Canada to currently provide municipalities and voters with an alternative to the first past the post system. Once again, we're being bold, taking the initiative.

The details for a municipality wishing to adopt ranked ballots, including consultation requirements, voting and vote-counting procedures and reporting requirements, would of course be set out in regulation, and we've got lots of time to do that between now and 2018. We'll be sharing some of those details today.

Proponents of ranked ballots believe this method of voting can make election campaigns more civil. I agree with this outlook. Ranked ballots send a strong message to members in a community: "Your voice matters"—replace some of that cynicism, give people who believe in nothing something sacred to embrace and to believe in.

As I travel around the province, visiting municipalities on my Building Bridges tour, I've been talking to people in communities all across Ontario. I think I've been in 207 municipalities, meeting with councils and councillors. I haven't been there to plug our government. In fact, I always start out by saying, "I don't want to hear the good things about our government. I want you to tell

us how we can improve things because with critique we can do something about that.” They seem a little taken aback by that approach, but do you know what? It has worked. We’ve got some great ideas, and that’s what good government should be all about, Mr. Speaker, don’t you think? I know you do, because I know you well.

For example, in the recent municipal election, in a ward very close to where I stand today, a councillor was re-elected with only 17% of the vote. I don’t refer to this as a way to delegitimize anybody or the current system. However, a ranked ballot election would have afforded the winning candidate a much higher percentage of the vote and the accompanying broader mandate.

Student Vote runs mock elections in our schools while the real ones are happening. Their analysis of the 2014 municipal election—their election, that is—noted that students were far more willing to vote for non-major candidates. I lose all the time in the school elections to the Green candidate. I don’t know who it is, but often we lose to the Green candidate. That says something positive about where our kids are coming from. They’re consumed in their eagerness to be—

*Interjection.*

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** —environmental rangers. You see those cute kids on the commercials who say, “I’m a ranger. I’m fighting for the environment.”

These kids researched the platforms of the different mayoral candidates. They became informed and engaged in the municipal election process. On election day, the kids held their own election at school, but the results of their election were very different from the real municipal election results and they couldn’t understand why. In wards with several candidates, the choice is made all the more complicated.

I wonder if both the mock student elections and the real elections were held with ranked ballots, their choices might have been much better matched. I remember they did a study in Pennsylvania where they went into a grade 6 class the day before the congressional, gubernatorial and presidential elections and within a couple of percentage points, the results were exactly the same.

*Interjection.*

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** Yes, maybe they reflect where their parents are coming from.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** Interesting.

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** It is interesting, isn’t it? It would be nice if these results were better aligned.

I believe ranked ballots would foster more engagement in the democratic process, so that maybe in the next municipal election, these youngsters’ experience may be different. I believe that with ranked ballots, candidates would have a vested interest in working better together, because you might need somebody else’s support to get over the 50%, possibly reducing negative campaigning. Maybe we could focus on issues. Wouldn’t that be jolly, Speaker, to do that? He’s not smiling.

I think we could all agree that this is what our communities deserve: elected officials who are committed to working together to better serve their communities and

debating issues of substance that are important, rather than engaging in personal attacks. We don’t do that here, so why would we do that municipally, right?

The feedback we received during our consultations was supportive of providing ranked ballot voting as an alternative to the first past the post. We also heard that we needed to ensure that the rules governing how municipal leaders are elected are transparent, accountable and flexible enough to allow for local choice.

We feel that municipalities are in the best position to make decisions about whether a new system is in the best interest of their community, so this is optional. Our job provincially, of course, is to provide them tools to make decisions to meet the needs of their communities, so it will be up to them what they decide. Several municipalities have, as I mentioned already, dealt with this; Oakville unanimously passed a resolution to embrace this ranked ballot system, and I know of several others who are currently hot at it in terms of the debate.

The member from Northumberland–Quinte West will speak a little bit more about this in a couple of moments. I’m waiting in breathless anticipation for that.

**Mr. Lou Rinaldi:** Stand by.

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** Speaker, you’ve got to have fun around this place, right?

We are also proposing changes around campaign financing, with additional accountability measures. We are proposing changes to the campaign finance rules which ensure that the rules are not only transparent but consistent with accountable, fair and modern election finance practices.

Our review of the Municipal Elections Act told us that the rules did not need an overhaul. We heard they needed to be updated to make them clear, more modern and easier to comply with, so that’s what we’ve done. The proposed changes provide for greater flexibility for candidates, and they address concerns from various stakeholders and the public regarding campaign contributions and the use of municipal resources.

We are proposing many smaller-scale changes to campaign finance rules. These include things like allowing candidates to accept contributions through modern forms of payment, including Internet banking, credit and debit cards, and PayPal.

Another example is removing the requirement for candidates to open a bank account if they do not raise or spend any funds. This would reduce the burden on small campaigns.

We are also proposing to allow for a regulation to set out spending limits on post-campaign spending on gifts and parties. There was a situation where one elected person raised \$239,000 more than was required for his election, so he threw a \$239,000 party, right?

**Mr. Bob Delaney:** Why wasn’t I invited to that?

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** I wasn’t either.

Our proposed changes would help voters, candidates and contributors alike to better understand election rules. In fact, there will be changes to encourage greater compliance with these rules. For instance, one proposed

change is to refund nomination fees to candidates only if they file their financial statements by the deadline. In this way, candidates would be encouraged to be on time.

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I also want to acknowledge that we've heard a fair bit about contribution limits. We recognize that there are a range of interests held by many different groups and members of the public. During the review, we wanted to take all of these views into account. Through standing committee, we heard that some members of the public are concerned that the current contribution limits are high while others view them as appropriate and others think they're too low. So we had to struggle with that.

On campaign length—we heard a lot about that in the campaign. The idea was echoed during our discussions in standing committee. Ontario, just for the record, has the longest nomination period of any province in Canada. This contributes to campaign fatigue amongst candidates and voters. John Tory told me he went to something like 800 meetings. The same people showed up at every meeting to ask the same question. He said he could have sent a tape with the answer. They could have just played the tape, right? Anyhow, there was a lot of fatigue attached to that.

Based on what we heard, we are proposing to shorten the municipal election campaign by 120 days. Candidates would be able to register between May 1 and the fourth Friday in July instead of January 1 to the second Friday in September in the year of the election. Shortening the length of the nomination period would give municipalities more time to prepare ahead of the election should they choose to use ranked ballots. That's another benefit.

On accessibility—another issue that I've spoken about—we're acting through the bill to make sure that clerks are able to prepare accessibility plans to identify, remove and prevent barriers that could affect voters and candidates with disabilities. Municipalities must produce a plan to do so. That's novel, right?

On the voters list, we're going to continue to work on improvements to the list because the accuracy of the municipal voters list was a concern and we heard a lot about that during our consultations. An inaccurate voting list just causes significant challenges for voters, municipal staff and election administrators, both leading up to and on voting day. We're going to continue to try to make that more understandable and easier for voters to add their names to the list or make changes to the information, as well as make it easier for clerks to remove names of deceased electors from the list.

In addition to these shorter-term solutions, we continue to work with a stakeholder working group to identify systemic issues with the voters list. We will continue to develop ways to help ensure a more accurate voters list over the long term.

Today I am proposing legislation that responds to the changing needs of our communities. By increasing the transparency of municipal elections and promoting local choice, the proposed reforms represent a big step forward for local government. The proposed changes reflect what

Ontarians said they wanted, and the bill reflects the feedback that we heard during debate and through the standing committee process itself.

I want to thank everyone who brought forward their ideas about how to make municipal elections better. This is a pragmatic, comprehensive attempt to make things better, and I urge all members to vote for the passing of this bill.

With this, I'm going to turn it over to an extraordinary orator, one who needs no introduction, somebody who understands this better than I do because he has done a lot of work on it: my parliamentary assistant, the member from Northumberland—Quinte West.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** I recognize the member for Northumberland—Quinte West.

**Mr. Lou Rinaldi:** It's good to weigh in on some of the comments the minister has made. What a great job. I could almost say "ditto" and the debate would be a lot quicker, but I just want the opportunity to add some of my own comments on the consultation, the clause-by-clause. I want to thank the minister for allowing me the opportunity to do that and to speak here today.

It's been a great pleasure over the last year to work with Minister McMeekin and his staff and ministry staff to try to, as we review this piece of legislation every four years, make it the best we can. There's always room for improvement, Speaker.

In the past few weeks, I have been happy to work closely with him through the standing committee process, where we heard a variety of perspectives on Bill 181, the Municipal Elections Modernization Act, to be precise.

As part of my responsibilities as parliamentary assistant, the Premier gave me a mandate to strengthen municipal governance through the Municipal Elections Act review. Some of us with municipal background know how challenging it is at each election and we try to get better with these reviews each and every time.

The Premier asked me to help ensure that the act continues to meet the needs of communities, including providing municipalities with the option to use ranked ballots as an alternative to first-past-the-post. As the minister mentioned, there's a lot of interest in ranked ballots. I'm going to speak for a few minutes about that. There were some 3,400 submissions, both in writing and in person, that were made; and out of those 3,400 the majority touched ranked ballots in one way or another.

Ranked ballots allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. We know that most political parties do that to elect their leaders, or for us to get nominated in our own riding.

*Interruption.*

**Mr. Lou Rinaldi:** I don't think it's me. I was checking.

Speaker, as you heard, the minister said there's no Canadian municipality currently using ranked ballots, but many jurisdictions around the world do. Some municipalities in the United States have either the option to use or currently use ranked ballots, including Minneapolis, Minnesota. Ranked ballots are also used in other places

around the world, including London, England, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand.

Let us be clear though, Speaker. We are proposing to give municipalities the option to use ranked ballots in future municipal elections, starting as early as 2018. Again, we're giving the municipality that option; ultimately they will make that decision. Ranked ballots will not be mandatory for municipalities.

Supporters of ranked ballots say that they have the potential to give voters a great say in who is elected and may result in elected officials who better reflect the diversity in their communities. In my years working here at Queen's Park and back at home in Northumberland-Quinte West, I have come to understand at first hand the need to have a voice on local issues and the local democratic process.

Most of the public input that we received favoured allowing municipalities that option of using ranked ballots for future municipal elections, and we continued to hear about ranked ballots during standing committee—a number of times. I want to acknowledge some of the feedback that we heard in standing committee on ranked ballots.

We heard some say that municipalities should be required to put a question on the ballot before changing their voting system to a ranked ballot election. Yes, we've heard that. We recognize that changing the voting system is a big decision for a municipality and its citizens, its residents. But we also recognize that municipalities are a responsible and accountable form of government, and they are in the best position to make those decisions based on the interest of their communities. In some cases, some rural communities, that might not be there. In some other rural communities it might be there. The same with cities, Speaker.

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Our job is to provide municipalities with a range of tools to provide flexibility for local needs and circumstances. We feel that municipalities are capable of determining whether a question on the ballot regarding ranked ballots is the best way to consult their communities, and they do have that choice.

To ensure that the decision to use ranked ballots is supported by local residents, regulations would set out a minimum standard to consult before a municipality could implement a ranked ballot. Municipalities will still have the option to put the question on the ballot, such as in a referendum, should they choose to do so.

Our proposed legislation will give municipalities the flexibility to consult in a way that works best in their own community, once they have met the minimum standard that will be set out in regulations. In giving municipalities the option to use ranked ballots, we are allowing more choice at the local level as to how municipalities elect their leaders, because every community is unique, and a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't always work.

Regulations for ranked ballots will also set out:

—conditions, limitations and procedural requirements for municipalities;

—rules governing ballots, voting procedures, the counting of votes, recounts and reporting the results; and

—deadlines when decisions around ranked ballots have to be made, so that municipalities have enough time to prepare for the 2018 municipal elections.

To come up with a proposed method to implement ranked ballots and decide on details such as ballots, voting procedures, the counting of votes, recounting and reporting issues, we listened to what we heard during the public consultations. We also held a number of meetings with key stakeholders, including the city of Toronto; the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, AMO; and municipal clerks across the province. We also looked closely at the experience of other jurisdictions that use ranked ballots.

We were able put through some other amendments during the amendment section of the proceedings.

A vital part of small, rural communities, like the ones I come from, is our volunteer firefighters. Back home in Northumberland-Quinte West, I see it first-hand. The current provisions in the Municipal Elections Act allow volunteer firefighters to run for municipal office without having to take a leave of absence or resign if elected. During committee, we also heard about the need to restore the exemption for volunteer firefighters who wish to run for municipal council. As I mentioned, particularly in small and remote communities we heard that changing the legislation might discourage volunteer firefighters from running for office or make them unable to perform their duties while running for office or after being elected. By restoring the exemption for volunteer firefighters, we will ensure that potential candidates can participate with minimal interference in their day-to-day activities.

I want to talk a little bit about the overview of the ranked ballots. As you know, Mr. Speaker, there are two kinds of elections used in Ontario: single-member and multi-member. I have both in my riding with the eight municipalities I represent.

Single-member elections are elections where only one candidate will win, such as the election of a mayor or a ward election where one person will be elected to represent the ward. Multi-member elections are where more than one candidate will win a seat, such as when council members are elected at large—that is, when they're elected by voters in the entire municipality, instead of any one specific ward—or a ward election where two or more people would be elected to represent it.

Speaker, I can tell you that in the riding that I represent, we have a real combination. We have elections for mayor and, in some cases, elections for deputy mayor; we have single elections for wards; and then we have election for mayor plus a possible election for deputy mayor, but not necessarily. In many cases, they're appointed. Then there's the election at large.

If Bill 181 passes and a regulation is made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, ranked ballots could be used by municipalities in both kinds of elections. With ranked ballots, voters could rank their choice from their

most preferred to least preferred candidate. When using a ranked ballot in a single-member election, a candidate strives to get at least 50% plus one of the votes. In a multi-member ranked-ballot election, the number of votes needed to be elected will depend on how many seats are being filled. In a ranked-ballot election, there may be multiple rounds of counting before a candidate is declared the winner.

It is important to note that ranked ballots are not being considered for school boards at this time. School boards often span municipal boundaries. Each municipality conducts elections for four types of school boards: English public, English separate, French public and French separate. As a result, separate consideration will be needed for ranked ballots for school boards. This may be revisited after the 2018 election, as we would normally do. In the meantime, if a municipality decides to use ranked ballots to elect council positions, voters will still use the current voting method to vote for their trustees for school boards.

Yes, ranked ballots will require education and training for everyone involved in the municipal election: candidates, voters and election workers. Municipalities have opted in the past to make other changes to how they hold their elections, such as Internet voting. I can tell you that when I was first elected mayor of the amalgamated municipality of Brighton, it was the first time we used vote by mail. There were a lot of skeptics out there, there were a lot of questions and, yes, there were some hiccups. But at the end of the day, that's still exercised today. As a matter of fact, in some other municipalities in my riding, they use vote-by-phone and through the Internet. So we've come a long way.

As part of the education system, they will do outreach before any municipal election and will presumably do the same for ranked ballots. There will be a process of education, and this is one of the things that they will provide that education for.

Our government currently produces guides for municipal candidates and electors, and provides training upon request for clerks. This would not change. Any changes would be part of the training process. These guidance materials will be updated and expanded to include information about ranked-ballot elections.

Municipalities already have a lot of flexibility in the way they structure their councils and run their elections. Introducing a ranked ballot as an option for municipalities would only add to the range of options available. For example, many municipalities divide their territory into wards, and each ward elects one or more representatives to council. Some municipalities do not use wards and choose to elect their entire council at large. Others use a combination of wards and at-large representatives.

Municipalities also have a number of choices in the way voting works. A municipality can make decisions on how voters cast their ballots. By default, municipal voters cast their ballots in person at a voting place. However, as I mentioned a minute ago, a municipality may decide to use alternative voting methods to cast their ballots, and

many municipalities have decided to do so already. For example, voters may have the option of voting online, by mail or via telephone.

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The option to use ranked ballots in municipal elections provides another choice for municipalities looking to tailor their municipal elections to their local needs and circumstances.

Speaker, in conclusion, Bill 181 is about ensuring that the rules governing how our municipal leaders are elected are transparent, accountable and flexible enough to allow for local choice.

The option to use ranked ballots, along with other proposed changes that Minister McMeekin and I have outlined today, will enable us to take a big step forward in making our municipal elections more modern and transparent. I join Minister McMeekin in supporting Bill 181 and I urge all members to vote for the passing of this piece of legislation. Thank you, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Questions and comments? Questions and comments?

Further debate?

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** I'm pleased to rise to speak to the Municipal Elections Modernization Act. As I said on second reading, municipalities are a responsible level of government. They need a Municipal Elections Act that allows them to hold modern elections in a way that suits their circumstances.

I want to start by thanking the people, municipalities and organizations who took the time to contact me during this process or to come to the committee and share their concerns.

While much of the debate in this Legislature has focused on ranked ballots, the presentations were on a variety of issues. A number of people came to request parties at the municipal level. We had quite a few presentations on the need to reform campaign financing further, and one requesting term limits. That's how the democratic process should work: that people have an opportunity for input.

The people of Ontario would likely expect that a bill about elections would be one of the most democratic, both in content and in process, but unfortunately, that was not the case. Despite what was said in this Legislature and to the media, we were disappointed in committee to find that the government voted down every single one of our amendments and refused to add requirements for public consultation regarding electoral reform and regulations.

The government even voted down amendments which would have helped municipalities to consult with the public. For instance, there are a number of places where this legislation moves the deadline earlier for municipal councils to put questions on the ballot. These questions are examples of clear, objective, measurable public consultation. When a municipal council has an issue that they believe should be decided by the people, we should make that process as easy as possible. Instead, this government just made it harder. We put forward amendments

to move these deadlines back and give council as much time as possible to decide to put a question on the ballot, but the government voted our amendment down.

Municipalities are already leading the way on public consultation using ballot questions. In the 2011 election, numerous municipalities used this tool to consult on electoral reform.

East Gwillimbury asked if residents were in favour of the existing electoral system of electing four councillors at large.

The township of Stone Mills asked whether residents were in favour of replacing the system of electing council representatives by wards with a new system of electing council representatives at large.

The city of Kitchener and the region of Waterloo asked whether residents supported Kitchener and Waterloo councils engaging in discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of merging the two cities.

Ajax, Pickering, Scugog, Uxbridge, Brock, Whitby and Oshawa all asked residents if they were in favour of changing from electing their chair by appointment of regional council to elections by general vote of the electors.

These municipalities and others all recognize that electoral reform should be approved by the people. That's a fact this government seems to have forgotten. During second reading debate, our caucus was very clear that we could not support a bill which allows the candidates being elected the sole authority to determine the electoral system. There must be a requirement to consult with the people through a referendum.

Elections belong to the people, and it should be up to the people to determine how the elections are run. As I said, municipalities are a mature order of government. We recognize that. That is why we believe they should be held to the same standard as other governments.

When Ontario, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island proposed changing the electoral system, they all had referendums. In 2007, this government understood that when it comes to electoral reform, there is a need for a greater level of consultation through a referendum before changing how people vote. In fact, the report from Ontario's Select Committee on Electoral Reform, which included the current Premier, stated:

"Legitimacy must also apply to the process by which electoral reform is achieved. If the process is unimpeachable, even those who disagree with the eventual outcome can accept it as legitimate. Such judgments are at the heart of democratic decision-making. A key ingredient in that process will be measuring public support through a plebiscite or referendum, about which more is said below."

American cities that have changed to ranked ballots or instant run-off voting, have held plebiscites, often in the form of a voter initiative question on the ballot. The city of London, England; New Zealand, Great Britain—around the world governments have recognized the need to hold referendums before changing an electoral system.

A Toronto Star editorial in January said, "Referendums on voting change have already been held in three provinces, setting a precedent of sorts. All failed, and some reformers are so hell-bent on dumping first-past-the-post that they are urging the Liberals to be 'brave' and move ahead on their own hook. That makes no sense. The lesson of past referendums cannot be that the people are too blind or foolish to see the light; it must be that those who want change have to do a better job of persuasion."

The city of Toronto passed a motion last October which stated very clearly they did not want the option of ranked ballots, but that if the province was to proceed anyway, there should be a requirement for a referendum.

During the committee hearings, Halton region councillor Mike Cluett said, "I can't stress of enough the importance of seeking comprehensive public input and holding a referendum before any changes are made. Direct voter input about how we vote in elections is critical and I personally can't support a bill that takes democracy away by allowing a government to change the way they are elected without appropriate consultation. As elected officials we have a responsibility to consult the voters in the province of Ontario."

In their submission to the Municipal Elections Act review, the city of Markham said, "A provincial referendum or some method of formal public consultation on ranked ballots should be conducted prior to amending the Municipal Elections Act to permit ranked ballots."

Mr. Speaker, we put forward an amendment to require a referendum that was based, in part, on An Act to provide for a referendum on Ontario's electoral system, the bill the Liberal government brought forward when they were proposing electoral reform. The amendment would have allowed municipal councils to hold a referendum at the same time as a municipal election or in a separate vote. It also would have given municipalities the flexibility to determine whether a threshold of 50% or 60% was appropriate for their municipalities. Despite all the requests from MPPs, presenters in committee and municipal officials, the government voted down our amendment.

One of the things we heard very strongly in committee is that there isn't universal support for ranked ballots. I was surprised how many people came to express concerns about ranked ballots or recommend that there be a referendum before municipalities were allowed to change the voting system.

Patrice Dutil, a professor of politics and public administration at Ryerson University said, "There is absolutely no evidence whatsoever that the transferable vote has ever made any difference to turnout. There is no evidence of this. In this period when we are talking constantly about evidence-based policy, I'd like to see a study, any study, that shows that STV has ever made a difference."

He went on to say, "No municipality should have the right to change the voting system without going to the people, period. In fact, I'll go so far as to predict that any

change to any municipal system this way will be challenged in the courts, and it will be challenged on constitutional grounds. There should have been more research on this. I'm very disappointed that there wasn't."

Another presenter at committee, John Pepall, stated that "preferential voting is fundamentally flawed and irrational and should not be allowed."

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Councillor Justin Di Ciano spoke at committee, on behalf of the city of Toronto, regarding concerns with the ranked ballot system. He said, "Under our current first-past-the-post system, every ballot is counted, every voice is heard and the candidate with the most votes wins. Under ranked choice voting, the winner is defined as the one who wins the majority of what are called 'continuing ballots'. This means if a voter uses all of his or her three rankings on candidates who do not have a chance of winning, that ballot will be exhausted and not part of the continuing ballots."

Councillor Di Ciano cited an example from San Francisco where counting went on for a number of rounds, and there were so few ballots left where someone had selected a candidate still in the race that the winner actually received only 24% of the votes cast, even including all the people who had picked her as second or third choice. Councillor Di Ciano also pointed out that since ranked choice voting was implemented in San Francisco, the number of women elected to council has actually decreased by 20%.

During his committee presentation, Stephen O'Brien from the Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario said, "I would like to highlight some of the concerns that clerks have about this change. As you can see on slide 6 of the materials, more than 75% of the clerks that we surveyed indicated that if their council decided in favour of using ranked ballots for the 2018 election, they would not feel prepared to do so."

Fred Hahn, president of CUPE, said during his presentation, "The proposal to allow ranked ballots comes without any prior discussion and without sufficient research to determine what effects that change would have in municipalities. So we propose that this section of the bill be removed, and that a more open and separate consultation on the process of electoral reform in municipalities be undertaken."

By the end of the committee, we had to wonder whether ranked ballots are really something that people want, or whether this is just another idea that Kathleen Wynne came up with at her kitchen table.

Even the Liberal member from Durham raised a concern about ranked ballots during the committee. He said, "It's something that I am not quite sure is the best way. The analogy you used when you use political parties—I have seen some terrible leaders be elected because of ranked ballots, so that's really not a great analogy ... you don't necessarily get the best candidate by ranked ballot."

Since the last time I had the opportunity to speak to this bill in the Legislature, there has been an election of

the mayor of London, England, which was conducted by ranked ballot. There are two things I want to point out about that election. First, the voters in London voted to change to that system; it wasn't simply imposed upon them. Secondly, despite what the people say about ranked ballots resulting in kinder, fairer campaigns, by all reports the campaign for mayor of London was incredibly negative. As the member for Etobicoke North noted in the House, the "election was not without its controversy. The usual suspects did speak in the usual way...." No candidate should have to deal with negative comments based on their race, but it is clear that ranked ballots don't solve that problem.

During clause-by-clause, we asked the government about some of these questions and what research they had done. I was disappointed in the fact that they weren't able to provide any research or evidence to the committee at all.

When I asked whether the government had done any research on the question that had been raised on whether ranked ballots resulted in higher error rates in areas that are low-income or that are highly multicultural, the parliamentary assistant couldn't tell us. I asked whether the government did any research into the impact of language barriers and whether changes to a system that requires more explanation would make it more difficult for cultural communities to vote. Again, the government members on the committee couldn't answer. One of the presenters said that ranked ballots actually resulted in less diverse councils. I asked whether the government did any research into whether that was true. Again, they couldn't answer.

A decision to change the electoral system is not one that any government should take lightly. It should be well researched, thought through carefully and must be approved by the people. It appears that the government decided to proceed with this bill with very little research. There is no evidence that they have looked into the impact on multicultural communities. There is no evidence that they have done any research into whether it is true that the error rate increases in lower-income neighbourhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I hope I'm wrong. I hope that the government didn't ignore the impact on these groups. If the government has done the research, I would like them to table it with the Legislature before we vote on this bill.

Over the last two months, a number of questions and concerns have been raised that, so far, no one seems to be able to answer. When there is this much debate over ranked ballots, it would be irresponsible for a government at any level to proceed without requiring a referendum. It should be up to the people to decide which system they think is the best.

During his presentation to the committee, OPSEU president Smokey Thomas said, "Given the vagueness in the current bill, I would definitely recommend a change to require that any municipality that opts to change its voting system must hold a referendum of citizens prior to making that change."

Bill Tieleman, who led the “no” side in the BC referendum on electoral reform, spoke to the committee and said, “Where I have an objection with the proposed legislation is that it does not give voters a mandatory and required referendum on an electoral system change. I think that’s a requirement. I think there are two areas where it is required in a modern democracy: one on constitutional change, and the other on electoral system change, because it has such an impact for such an extended period of time.”

He also said, “Every electoral system has pluses and minuses, advantages and disadvantages and all sorts of things that we can and can’t see into the future. That’s why I think it’s important to have that fulsome debate with voters participating and giving them the final choice and not having it by elected officials.”

As Cathrine McKeever, one of the presenters at the committee who spoke strongly against ranked ballots, said, “If you are so convinced this is the perfect system, why not allow the voters an opportunity to agree with you?”

Gloria Kovach, a former city councillor from the city of Guelph and a former president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, talked about the need for a referendum and pointed out that Guelph had held one when they were considering electoral reform. She said, “They first held a referendum via ballot in 1988, on the issue of changing from an at-large voting system to a ward system. There was resounding support for that change. The change came into effect in the 1991 municipal election. It didn’t cost any extra money to do this, and we heard what the citizens wanted. Yes, there were some unhappy people after it. However, even they recognized the democratic process that had brought about this change.”

In fact, no municipal official has stated that they don’t want public consultation. After the bill was introduced, I received an email from a northern mayor that said, “Elections are supposed to best represent the views and wants of the people voting, not those that serve the people. As such if my municipal voters desire to have a ranked ballot vote I would support it.”

I received an email from a mayor in southwestern Ontario who said, “This bill should not pass. We as voters should have a say in this process. I hope you will voice all the concerns in this matter.”

A mayor in eastern Ontario wrote, “I agree that some aspects are good in the proposed changes but once again this current Liberal government wants to remove democracy from its citizens.”

The mayor of Kingston said, “Changing how our voting system works is an important decision. We need to understand the pros and cons of moving to a ranked ballot, and most importantly, have discussion and debate across the community.”

During the second reading debate, a number of members mistakenly stated that this bill would require a public meeting before a municipality changed to a ranked ballot electoral system, and it does not.

In fact, whenever the government had the opportunity to add public consultation to this bill, they voted it down. They voted against our amendment to require a referendum and did not put forward a single amendment of their own to require public consultation. They even voted down our amendment that would have required a minimum of 90 days of public consultation on regulations regarding ranked ballots.

The government isn’t willing to commit to a standard of public consultation on the change to the ranked ballots or even consultation on how those elections will be run. We have said repeatedly that elections belong to the people, and these people should get a say in how these elections are run.

As the deputy clerk of the municipality of North Grenville, Katie Valentin, said, “The one that’s gotten the most publicity is of course the new act will allow the option for ranked balloting. Unfortunately, the way the bill is written, all it says is ‘We’ll give you the option; all the details about how you can implement that will come later in regulation.’”

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When we put forward amendments that were requesting them to clarify how some aspects would work, the government said those details would be coming out in regulation in due course. It’s hard to believe that this change is about engaging people and improving democracy when this government refuses to listen to the people of Ontario, municipalities or other members.

It’s disappointing, because the Minister of Municipal Affairs repeatedly said that he would consider ways to make this bill better. In this Legislature he said, “I’ve already asked staff to go over all the points that have been raised and to specifically come up with a response and/or a change, given those points have been raised. I think the member opposite knows that I’m sincere when I say that. So when we get standing committee, this is about coming up with the best possible bill we can, and we will do that.”

Even after the bill went to committee, the minister repeated that commitment to *Now* magazine. He said, “You raise it, we talk about it. I make a commitment to revisit and look at it. We put our best minds to it, and we come up with what we think is best. Then we present it to the public, and the public comments and says, ‘You’re full of hooley’ or ‘We really like this.’ And if we’re full of hooley, then we revisit it again. Right? ‘Cause that’s called democracy.”

That would be democracy, but that is not what happened. We heard from people. They asked for changes to this bill. The PC caucus listened and put forward amendments that would make the bill better, amendments that would increase public consultation, add better definitions, reduce hardships on candidates and ensure that good people could run for office and would strengthen the section on accessibility for people with disabilities. The government voted down every single one.

They voted down amendments that were requested by multiple people who appeared before the committee. They voted down amendments that would have given the

minister regulatory powers. They even voted down an amendment that would have added a definition from Bill 201, the Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, the opposition has an important role in pointing out where the government has missed the mark and working to make the legislation better. We take that role seriously; that's why we put forward amendments.

I want to take this time today to go through our proposals to strengthen this bill. For instance, Bill 181 contains a section regarding making municipal elections more accessible for voters with disabilities. Now, I want to acknowledge that we support the government's goal in this. But during committee we heard that more was needed to make it stronger. During committee, John Rae of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities said, "Subsection 2 provides that the clerk shall prepare a plan regarding the identification, removal and prevention of barriers. That is a useful framework, but that's all it is: a framework. In order to be successful, it must be added to and made more robust and prescriptive."

We put forward an amendment that said the minister, by regulation, could prescribe standards for the plan. This simply gave the minister more power to reduce barriers for people with disabilities if required, but the government members of the committee voted it down.

We put forward an amendment that would require that the clerk's report after the election include a report on the implementation of the plan that they had developed to reduce barriers. This would ensure that for the future it was identified what worked and what didn't.

We heard that Elections Ontario has developed a list of accessible locations which could be of assistance to the clerks as they are planning their voting locations. We also heard that people with disabilities need to be involved in the developing of that plan. During the committee, John Rae of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities said, "In the disability rights movement, sir, we use the phrase, 'Nothing about us without us.' It's the clarion call of the disability rights movement."

We put forward an amendment to address this which read, "In preparing the plan, the clerk shall consider input from accessibility advocates and any resources available from the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer of the province of Ontario regarding barrier-free locations." This amendment would have ensured that the clerks had resources that could assist them in reducing barriers while ensuring that they have the flexibility and authority they need to create the plans that work for their municipalities. But once again, the government voted against this amendment.

During his presentation, John Rae also said, "It has been suggested that the most important act any citizen performs in a democracy is casting one's vote." The government had a chance to strengthen this section of the bill to ensure that people with disabilities are able to vote, and they refused.

Mr. Speaker, we put forward an amendment to add a definition of "minister" to the act. This was an amend-

ment that was actually recommended by legislative counsel. The Municipal Elections Act has 40 references to "a minister," and Bill 181 has approximately 10 more, but nowhere in the act or in Bill 181 does it define which minister. The legislative counsel we were working with recommended this to make both our amendments and the act as a whole clearer, but the government voted it down.

We put forward a motion to amend the definition of "third-party advertising" to include advertising that takes a position on "an issue with which a candidate is associated." The parliamentary assistant on the committee said, "Chair, this is way too broad. I recommend not supporting it."

To be fair, before we voted on the amendment, I pointed out that the definition actually came from the bill that the government had introduced just two days before, Bill 201, the Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016, and yet the government members of the committee still voted against the amendment. It's hard to believe that the government members were really considering the amendments when they voted against adding their own definition to the bill.

It's also hard to believe that the government was really listening and considering amendments when they voted against one that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing had told the media he supported just days before.

In committee, we heard from a number of presenters that unpaid labour which is provided at the direction of an individual, corporation or trade union is a problem in municipal elections. We heard stories of so-called volunteers who had actually been hired by companies for the sole purpose of volunteering on campaigns full-time.

Liberal MP Deb Schulte said in her presentation, "You need to include 'volunteer hours' that are paid for by external individuals as a contribution from that individual and make it subject to the same limits."

"I have experienced this directly, the boosting by a developer that's not declared by the candidate."

The concern was also expressed by Campaign Fairness and Professor Robert MacDermid, who said, "I want to be very clear what this is. This is not people who are volunteering to work on a campaign in their off-working hours; this is people who are being paid to work on a campaign by their employer and being paid to work on the campaign of their employer's choice."

He went on to say, "This represents a huge black hole in municipal campaign finance, and probably in campaign rules at other levels as well. I would estimate that it's hundreds of thousands of dollars that go unreported, undisclosed and unlimited."

On May 12, QP Briefing interviewed the Minister of Municipal Affairs about this issue. The article says, "McMeekin said Thursday he believed the bill said the opposite—that the pay should be considered a campaign contribution—and he would 'fix it' if he was wrong."

"Well, I think if that becomes a substitute for direct developer or union influence, to send a whole shift off to work on putting somebody's signs up or deliver bro-

chures, that could have the ability to do exactly what we don't want to see done,' said McMeekin. 'If that's the case, I'll revisit that.'"

"Asked if he believes that 'loophole' should be closed in the forthcoming legislation that will ban corporate and union donations in provincial campaign financing, McMeekin said it should be covered.

"If it's not, we'll look at that again,' McMeekin said."

I was happy to hear that, because it was one of the areas of the bill that we believe should be fixed. The minister and his office later clarified and said that he would listen to the recommendations of the committee.

This committee heard from many people who recommended that these paid volunteers be banned: a former municipal candidate, now an MP; a political science professor who has extensively studied municipal campaign finance; an organization that is dedicated to ensuring that municipal campaign financing is fair.

One week after QP Briefing interviewed the minister, we put forward an amendment that would have made paid volunteers a campaign contribution, but when it came to clause-by-clause, the government used their majority to block an amendment that, only a week before, the minister had stated he thought was already in the bill and, if not, committed to fix it.

I would welcome an explanation on what happened, because from this side of the House, it's difficult to understand. Perhaps by then they realized that the government had created the exact same loophole in section 1 of Bill 201, the Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act, the government's new political fundraising bill.

Mr. Speaker, that was not the only loophole in this bill. There were also concerns raised by the third-party-advertising section of this bill. We heard from a number of presenters, including the Ontario Nonprofit Network, that if the bill didn't contain an exemption for organizations that spent below a certain threshold, this legislation would be open to a court challenge. The NDP critic introduced an amendment to address that and the government voted it down. He proposed a threshold of \$1,000, but in debate he said that he would be willing to amend to it \$500 or any other number. Instead of working with him to find the right number, the government simply voted it down.

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That is particularly interesting, given that Bill 201, the Election Finances Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016, introduced by the government two days before clause-by-clause, includes the following exemption for third-party advertisers: "A third party shall apply for registration under this section immediately after having incurred expenses of a total amount of \$500 for third-party political advertising during a period referred to in section 37.10.1."

We put forward a number of amendments to improve the rules on third-party advertising. We put forward an amendment to increase transparency by requiring the municipal clerk to make the list of third-party advertisers

public. But once again, the government members on the committee voted it down.

There are a number of circumstances where an individual with a lot of resources has influenced campaigns. We put forward an amendment to ensure balance and fairness by limiting the amount that an individual could contribute to their own third-party advertising campaign to \$5,000. Again, the government voted it down. That means if a wealthy individual decides they don't like a specific councillor, they can create a third-party advertising campaign against that individual and there's no limit to the amount that they can contribute.

There's another loophole in Bill 181, which states, "If the spouse of a registered third party is not normally resident in Ontario, the spouse may make contributions only to the registered third party." This clause allows someone who is not a resident of Ontario to make unlimited donations to a third-party campaign. This would allow someone who doesn't live in the municipality or even Ontario to have a significant impact on the election. We don't believe that is right, so we put forward an amendment to remove this clause, but again the government voted it down.

We also heard at committee that the current limit on contributions up to \$5,000 a campaign within a single municipality is too high and can result in a single person having a large influence in a smaller municipality. If there are a number of third-party advertisers who have the same goal, contributing a total of \$5,000 to them has the same result as contributing \$5,000 to one.

We put forward an amendment which limited the contribution to third-party advertisers within a municipality to \$3,000, except in Toronto, where it would remain \$5,000. But again, the amendment was voted down.

As part of our efforts to make third-party advertising more transparent, we put forward an amendment to create more of an incentive for third-party advertisers to file their financial statements. Under Bill 181, the rules have been changed so the candidates don't receive a refund of their nomination fee until they have filed their financial statements after the election.

That's a change that we support. We believe the same should apply to third parties. We put forward an amendment to require a registration fee of \$100 for individuals or non-profit corporations registering as third parties and \$500 for unions and corporations. Similar to the nomination fee, the cost for registration would be refunded to third-party organizations if they filed a financial statement as required. This would have added accountability, but once again, the government members voted down our amendment.

The government says that they want a shorter municipal campaign, and we've heard that from across the aisle today. But anyone who has read the bill knows that under Bill 181 they have actually made it longer. Nominations will now close about six weeks earlier, the fourth Friday in July, instead of the second Friday in September as in previous campaigns. This would result in a campaign longer than the one for the last federal election.

The longer campaign will not only be exhausting for the public; it will create hardships for all of those people who are forced to take a leave of absence from their jobs to run for office. As Gloria Kovach, a former city councillor from Guelph and the former president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, said during committee hearings, "I have been involved with women across the country on increasing women's participation in local government. One of the barriers that I heard time and time again was the cost and financial concern of campaign. The consequences of extending an active campaign period may indeed negatively impact diversity on municipal councils.

"While 13 weeks of advertisements, signs, debates and fundraising is well exhausting for the general public, it has a far bigger impact on persons who are required to take a leave of absence to run for municipal office. These aren't just municipal employees—or perhaps volunteer firefighters, as I know this committee has heard in the past. There are often people who work in other industries who are required to take that time off during an election campaign. It's just prohibitive. It will be a barrier and it will discourage good people from running for office."

During his presentation to the committee, Gary McNamara, the president of AMO, said, "However, debate in the Legislature has raised some legitimate potential issues around the withdrawal date of the fourth Friday in July. The concern is that this earlier date may disadvantage volunteers and others who can't afford a longer leave of absence from their jobs to campaign."

This longer campaign will not only create challenges for candidates; it will limit the ability of municipalities to function because the Municipal Act restricts the decisions that council can make after nomination day.

Unless based on acclamations, three-quarters or more of council will stay the same. After nomination day, council is prevented from appointing or removing any officer of the municipality, hiring or dismissing any employee of the municipality, the disposition of any real or personal property of the municipality which has a value exceeding \$50,000, and making any expenditure or incurring any liability which exceeds \$50,000. This means that from July until the new council is sworn in, the municipality can't function properly. When this concern was raised in committee with Gary McNamara, the president of AMO, he agreed with the fact that this period would be lame duck.

The government has stated that more time is needed due to the ranked ballots, so we put forward an amendment to move the end of nominations to the fourth Friday in August instead of the fourth Friday in July. That would allow an additional two weeks compared to previous elections to give clerks the time they need while ensuring minimizing hardships to potential candidates. But, despite the fact that the July date will cause challenges for municipalities and that AMO agreed that the close of nominations should be moved later, the government voted down our amendment.

While the government is forcing candidates into a 13-week long campaign, they aren't giving them some of the

tools they need. Under Bill 181, there is a gap of about six weeks when the nominations are closed but the candidates don't have the information that they need to contact voters. While this is frustrating for most candidates, it creates a significant challenge for people running to be school board trustees, particularly for French or Catholic school boards. We put forward an amendment which would require candidates to receive a copy of the voters list when nominations close, but the government voted it down.

Bill 181 gives municipal clerks new responsibilities for reviewing financial statements to ensure that contributors have not exceeded either their maximum contribution to a single campaign or to multiple campaigns within the municipality. We support the additional oversight, but we heard that there are challenges, because some financial returns don't have enough information for the clerk to determine whether it is the same individual. If there are two John Smiths listed on the financial statement, each with a maximum contribution, and there are no addresses provided, how can the clerk determine whether this is the same person or two separate people?

During the committee, Professor Robert MacDermid said, "I would also argue that clerks or compliance audit committees should also be given the power to ensure that the campaign statements are complete. In my experience in looking at thousands of these, about a quarter of them—and the statements of many sitting council members—are not complete."

We put forward an amendment that would give the clerk the authority to request more information when a financial statement is not complete. This would ensure that they have the tools they need in order to fulfill the responsibilities that the government has given them, but, like all of our other amendments, the government members on the committee voted it down. The third party put forward an amendment to deal with this problem as well, and once again, the government voted it down.

Another one of the concerns that was raised in committee was what happens in the event of a tie with ranked ballots. During his presentation, the mayor of Oakville said, "On the question of ties, theoretically, it's possible for there to be a tie at some point in a ranked ballot system, depending on the counting method used. There are about five different known counting methods. I'm expecting that the government will probably prescribe the counting method, but in the event of a tie—right now, we have this flip-a-coin, draw-a-card, game-of-chance approach to breaking the tie. In a ranked ballot system, what would be wrong with having the tie go to the one with the most first-place votes?"

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We put forward a motion to ensure that the person who was the first choice of more people would be the winner. I think that people would have a difficult time arguing that there is a more democratic way to settle a tie. In fact, in the rules regarding counting preferential ballots, Robert's Rules of Order states, "In the event of a tie in the winning position—which would imply that the

elimination process is continued until the ballots are reduced to two or more equal piles—the election should be resolved in favour of the candidate or proposition that was strongest in terms of first choices (by referring to the record of the first distribution).”

The city of Aspen Instant Runoff Voting Procedures Manual states, “The first tiebreaker shall be based upon the number of first choice rankings, with the candidate with the largest number of first choice rankings being determined the winner of the tiebreaker.”

It seems logical and democratic that in the event of a tie, the winner should be the person who was the first choice of the majority of people, but once again, the government chose partisanship over democracy and voted down the amendment.

There are also concerns about the method for the count. Previously, a judge had the ability to order that a recount be done in a different manner than the original count, if he or she was of the opinion that the manner in which the original count was conducted contributed to the doubtful result. Bill 181 exempts ranked ballot elections from this clause, meaning that if a ranked ballot election is counted by electronic tabulators and the result is flawed, there is no ability to change the method to get accurate results.

There are a number of problems that can occur with electronic tabulators. You could have a thousand people vote and the machine only register 200 votes, but there is no ability to have a hand recount to ensure that those other 800 votes count. When San Francisco switched to tabulators for the instant runoff, they found that the machines would only read certain types of ink.

There is also a huge potential for a need to hand-count certain ballots because the machines are unable to read voter intent because of confusion with the new ballots. One of the concerns raised in committee was that since school board trustees are not subject to ranked ballots, when voters get to that section of the ballot, they will be confused. A hand count might be able to pick up voter intention from the fact that there is a “1” beside one of the trustees’ names, but if the machine doesn’t, that vote won’t count.

We raised this on second reading, and the concern was confirmed in discussions with experts as we prepared for clause-by-clause. We put forward an amendment to fix this problem and ensure that all votes would count, but once again, the government members on the committee voted it down.

One of the other concerns we raised on second reading was that new section 41.1 of the act gives the minister power to overrule any part of the legislation by regulation. We understand that there are some circumstances in which a minister needs to prescribe certain things by regulation. We support the section that gives him the flexibility to define what is a residence for the purpose of determining who can vote in a municipal election, because we recognize that there are some unusual situations that the legislation could not contemplate, such as people using a barn or storage unit as an address. In fact, we

proposed two amendments that would have given the minister more regulatory authority: one to strengthen the accessibility section of the bill and one to allow the minister to define advertising. That was something that Smokey Thomas, the president of OPSEU, pointed out was needed during his presentation.

During the committee hearings the representative from Sustainable Vaughan stated, “My work advocating for the community is at risk due to the ambiguity in the definitions of both ‘third party’ and ‘advertising’ within this bill.” The government voted down our amendments on specific regulatory policy. Instead, they voted to keep the broad regulatory power that allowed the minister to overrule any part of the legislation by regulation. As the parliamentary assistant said again, “I recommend voting against this motion, because the provision is included as changes may be required to certain sections of the act for the purpose of implementing ranked ballots for elections starting in the year 2018.”

Mr. Speaker, I think the parliamentary assistant captured our point precisely. The government hasn’t fully researched this issue, so they don’t know all the changes required to the act. Rather than researching it properly and having full, open and public debate in the Legislature, they are passing the legislation, knowing full well that they may overrule parts of it later behind closed doors, with no public scrutiny.

Regulations should not be used to avoid public scrutiny or consultation on legislation, and they shouldn’t be used to make up for legislation that isn’t well researched and well written.

We saw over and over during this process that the government hadn’t properly researched or thought through this bill. The afternoon before clause-by-clause, we received a package of amendments submitted by the government which would ban union and corporate donations to all municipal candidates. We supported the intent of these amendments, but I want to point out that there was a concern from municipalities that the government had reversed position at the last minute, which left no time for consultation.

Less than a week earlier, in providing the clarification to Queen’s Park Briefing on his position on paid labour, the minister said in a statement, “In consulting on Bill 181, it was important for me to respect the rights of municipalities to decide how they proceed forward with using ranked ballots or banning corporate and union donations as well as third-party advertising.”

During second reading, the minister said, “Furthermore, I believe that any discussion about modern elections must include the option to ban corporate and union donations. Where have I heard that before? It’s important that our cities and towns undertake this important conversation with their citizens.”

I can understand why municipalities were caught off guard by the new amendments. As Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie said in a Toronto Star article, “Consultation with all municipalities is necessary when making changes of this magnitude and I would welcome the

opportunity to provide feedback on these brand new proposed amendments [to] the legislation currently being debated.”

During the committee presentations, the president of AMO said that banning corporate and union donations should be left up to the municipalities, but that if the province was to ban them for all municipalities, they should also increase the individual donation limits to reflect the fact that this will result in increased challenges for fundraising. It seems that on this issue the government simply ignored AMO's advice.

They also ignored comments from presenters that there should be a greater requirement for candidates to demonstrate a minimum level of support before nomination papers are accepted. We heard that it would assist voters in being able to identify the candidates and learn their issues.

Under Bill 181, candidates are required to get 25 signatures to run for office. We put forward an amendment to require that those signatures be from the area where the candidate was running. A councillor would have to get the signatures of 25 people in their ward in order to run. We also put forward an amendment that would increase it to 100 signatures to run for mayor in the city of Toronto. The government members of the committee voted that down because the parliamentary assistant said that they wanted “a consistent process across the province.”

Mr. Speaker, this is interesting because Bill 181 doesn't actually create a consistent process. For instance, under Bill 181 the limit for donations for everyone other than the mayor is \$750 but for the mayor of Toronto it is \$2,500. We understand that. Toronto is unique; because of its size, it leads to more expensive campaigns. But I'm not sure there's another municipality in Ontario that had 65 candidates run for mayor. As the presenter pointed out, that created challenges for voters, and I'm disappointed that the government wasn't interested in working with us to solve them.

There were a number of other amendments we put forward to solve problems with the bill. While some are small, technical fixes, they can create real challenges for candidates. For instance, Bill 181 requires that both candidates and parties provide advertisers with contact information for the person responsible for advertising, including business addresses. We all know from our own campaigns that some of our volunteers are people who are retired or not working. Sometimes these are people who have the time available to take on major roles in a campaign. We put forward an amendment to clarify that addresses could be a home address if the person did not have a business address. But once again, the government voted it down. The government also voted down an amendment that the clerk of the city of Toronto requested to make the compliance audit committee more efficient and effective.

Mr. Speaker, there's one section where the government listened. Section 22 of Bill 181 removed the clause of the Municipal Elections Act that allowed people to

continue to serve as a volunteer firefighter while running for municipal council. I've never heard an explanation from the government of why they put that in the bill, but I'm pleased that during the clause-by-clause it was voted out.

I also want to point out a couple of things that municipalities raised that still aren't addressed in this bill. Two of them may not require a legislative change, so I hope to government will move to address them. The first is the accuracy of the voters list. We've heard over and over about the challenges with the list. This is probably the number one request from municipalities: that the government look at ways to make the list better. I want to acknowledge that Bill 181 makes the process for removing deceased people easier, and we were happy to support that, but much more needs to be done before the next municipal election.

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As AMO said in their submission on the municipal elections review, “Inaccuracies, errors, and omissions on the municipal voters list have been raised by many municipalities, election after election. These result in mistakes that aggravate voters, can frustrate voting behaviour, and question the capabilities of municipal elections staff and the process. AMO supports the need to improve the municipal voters list to safeguard the integrity of local government elections.”

During their committee presentation, Stephen O'Brien, the chair of the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers elections act advisory team, said, “Following the last several municipal elections, one of the biggest priorities for clerks in this province has been the poor quality of the municipal voters list. As you can see on slide 4 of the presentation materials that we've provided to you, when AMCTO surveyed its members last May, 92% of them indicated that Ontario needed a new approach to the voters list.”

The second change—and it's one we heard about from the mayor of Barrie, a councillor from Toronto and others—is the need to have more resources to help guide candidates. When they are struggling to fill out financial forms correctly or trying to make sure they are following all the rules, there is no one who is willing to give them advice. It seems often that the only guidance they receive is to tell them to call a lawyer, which is an expensive way to get an answer. Provincially, we have the ability to call Elections Ontario. We're able to get guidance in writing to ensure that we follow all the rules. Municipal candidates are asking for a resource to help them with similar advice.

I know the ministry has been conducting a review of the Municipal Act, and I hope that the last request I want to raise will be part of that review. We received a number of requests to shorten the so-called lame-duck period between the election and the first meeting of the new council. AMO recommends that municipalities be given the flexibility to hold the first meeting between 18 and 39 days after the election to suit local circumstances. We hope to see that change in the upcoming bill.

We also hope that in upcoming bills we will be able to work together to ensure that municipalities get the changes they need.

I'm disappointed in this bill and the committee process that it went through. I'm disappointed that the government put forward a bill that clearly wasn't ready, where government members, including the minister, were confused about what was actually in the bill and where they claim that broad regulatory powers are needed because they don't actually know how the ranked ballots will be implemented or whether they will need to overrule parts of the legislation that we are debating today.

I'm also disappointed in how little respect the government had for input from others, both from the public and other members of this Legislature. People travelled to appear before the committee. They did a lot of work to prepare their presentations, and the majority of their time, it seems, the government simply didn't listen. As a result, we missed opportunities to add transparency and accountability, as well as opportunities to make municipal elections more accessible.

We put a lot of work into preparing amendments based on those presentations and our analysis of the bill. We attempted to fix a number of problems that it created, and the government members simply voted down every single amendment, even those based on a government bill or that were supported by the minister's comments just a week before.

I understand how the critic from the third party felt near the end of the clause-by-clause when he said he was so disappointed by the previous vote that he did not even wish to continue, and withdrew his last motion.

What's most disappointing is that the government did not agree to public consultation through a referendum before a municipality can change their electoral system. It shows a lack of respect for the people of Ontario.

As the organization Defend Democracy said, "Canada's electoral system is the basis of our democracy. Considering the potential impact, no one government or political party has the authority to fundamentally alter our democratic system. If our system is to be reformed, it is up to the people of Canada to decide directly through a referendum."

Elections do not belong to the Liberal Party, this government, or even a municipal council. They belong to the people, and we cannot support a bill that attempts to override the right of the people to determine how they elect their government.

With that, that ends the presentation, but, Mr. Speaker, you did notice that I mentioned in my remarks the president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. I just got a note here from the Speaker's chair that Mr. Clark Somerville is the new president of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. He takes over in June, and we want to congratulate him on his new position.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me the time to make this presentation, and thank you very much for giving me that information to be one of the first

to welcome him to the presidency of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Questions and comments?

Further debate? I'm pleased to recognize the member from Windsor-Tecumseh.

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** Good afternoon, Speaker. I hate to break it to you and the member from Oxford, but I welcomed Clark Somerville as the new president of the FCM last week. So, yes, it's about time you guys got caught up. He is from Halton, right?

Seriously, it's always a pleasure to be called upon in this House to represent my constituents in Windsor-Tecumseh. This bill, Bill 181, amends the Municipal Elections Act, and it is of interest in my riding.

For me, at the core of this bill is the intent to get big money—corporate money, donations from developers—out of municipal politics. Quite frankly, it doesn't belong there and it never has, but it has crept in as part of the accepted practice of doing business for many people in some parts of the province. That's because election campaigns can be very expensive to run. Over the years, people seeking influence over candidates exploited that. Slowly, ever so gradually, this trickle of corporate money became a flood in some areas. Developers knew that if they could claim their money actually helped a candidate win an election, then they could expect that candidate to take their calls, listen, and perhaps—just perhaps—be persuaded to vote for whatever issue the corporate funders were pushing at that time.

I am by no means saying that this has corrupted every municipal politician who has ever accepted funding from a developer. In fact, in my two municipal elections I had several people from the development industry make campaign donations—it could have been \$100; it could have been \$200. I never ran very expensive campaigns, and I never felt beholden to anyone that made a contribution to my campaign. But in some areas of the province, there is certainly the perception that developer money—big money—controls the votes on council.

As a matter of fact, at committee we heard from a federal member of Parliament who ran three times in the municipality of Vaughan. Deb Schulte is a former Vaughan and regional councillor in York region. She told us that back in 2010 an anonymous attack campaign was launched against several sitting members. There was so much time, effort and money put into that negative campaign that several incumbents lost their seats. Because of this, what happens is, for those who win a seat, according to Ms. Schulte, there's always the threat that, if you don't play along, you'll be targeted in the next municipal election.

The MP for King-Vaughan told us that after that election, when she wasn't the target, she was told flat out by someone trying to exert his influence over her on planning and development issues, "We put you in, and we can take you out." That's exactly what they did to her: Someone in the development industry paid for and ran what she described as "an extensive and expensive

attack campaign” against her the next time out. They did it in such a way that no one could figure out who was pulling the strings or who was paying the bills.

She told us that she wasn't a bitter losing candidate. After all, she's now a sitting member of Parliament in the Trudeau government, and she feels she got there because people in her riding knew that what had been done to her in the last municipal campaign was wrong.

Big money has had a big say in who was elected municipally in certain parts of the province for far too long.

We heard from Robert MacDermid, who teaches political science at York University. He is, without a doubt, one of the experts in this province on municipal campaign finance. He has connected the dots, so to speak, because of the many studies he has conducted in this field. He's done it for two decades. He's looked at thousands and thousands of campaign statements filed by municipal candidates.

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He's worked with the grassroots group, Campaign Fairness, as they focused on the 12 or 13 municipalities that share the Lake Simcoe watershed. Some of the winning candidates in those areas get 80% of their donations from the development industry. Others aren't so lucky; they only get 60% or 70%. Of course, a few get none at all. Professor MacDermid says what that has led to, because of the developer influence on council decisions, is unregulated urban sprawl in many of those municipalities where development interests are greatest. His research shows that although many of the big developers actually live in the municipality of Vaughan, they fund municipal campaigns in all of the surrounding areas in the watershed as well. In fact, when I asked him how widespread a problem this has been, he said that development money from Vaughan is given to candidates in 20 or 30 other municipalities in southern Ontario.

So the timing is right for this section of the bill banning corporate donations at the municipal level. It's an issue whose time has come.

By the way, Speaker, the bill will ban donations from labour unions as well, and just so you know, after years and years of looking at financial statements filed by municipal candidates, by comparison, Professor MacDermid says that union donations are trivial. There's not much there and what there is is small potatoes.

That sentiment was echoed by Fred Hahn, president of CUPE Ontario. CUPE, as you know, represents 250,000 workers across the broader public sector in Ontario; 80,000 of them are municipal workers, and they have another 55,000 at various school boards in the province. His studies show large corporations donate between 40% and 50% of all the money raised in municipal election campaigns. By comparison, Mr. Hahn told us at committee that union contributions range in some municipalities from 1% to as high as 10%.

To quote Fred Hahn, “This legislation empowers municipalities to ban both corporate and union donations, and it appears to imply that the role of unions and

corporations is relatively equivalent. Despite the apparent false equivalency created by this legislation, we are supportive of it in principle, including the sections that ban both union and corporate donations.”

We heard very similar words from the president of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. Warren Smokey Thomas said, “We often hear the phrase ‘corporate and union donations,’ as if corporations and unions are somehow equivalent ... players in democratic debates, and as if they both spend about the same amount of money trying to influence the outcomes of elections. This is not the case.”

He went on to say, “Let me say at the outset that we wholeheartedly support eliminating the influence of big money on municipal elections. If there's any organization in this province that has done and said more than OPSEU on the way big money corrupts government decisions, I haven't heard of it.

“But corporations and unions are not the same, for two reasons. First of all ... unions are democratic; corporations are not. Their structure is authoritarian....

“Corporations as a group donate far more to political candidates than unions ever do.

“At the municipal level, as I think we all know, the big issue is not campaign donations from working people and their unions; it's donations from developers.”

Speaker, Smokey Thomas concluded that part of his presentation with this: “The positive effect of banning corporate donations will, we believe, be much greater than the negative effect of banning donations from democratic organizations like ours. On balance, it will lessen the impact on big money on elections, and that's a deal I'll take any day of the week.”

Speaker, just for your edification, corporate and union donations for municipal campaigns were banned in the city of Toronto in 2010. It hasn't posed a problem there, so it shouldn't create issues any place else in Ontario.

Next up, we at the committee level had to wrestle with the concept of a voluntary ban or a mandatory ban on corporate and union donations. Initially, the bill said that municipal councils would be able to decide for themselves whether such a ban was acceptable. In other words, it would be voluntary and up to them. However, we heard from a number of witnesses who said that that just wouldn't work. They feared that with councillors beholden to the development industry, especially since some of them were getting 60%, 70% and 80% of their campaign contributions funded by developers, there would be no way that those mayors and councillors would vote to turn off the financial taps. If the intent was real, if the purpose was to get rid of corporate influence on municipal candidates and to get big money out of municipal campaigns, then we had no choice. Voluntary wouldn't work. The ban had to be mandatory.

I want to compliment the Liberals on coming to terms with that. What we have in that section of the bill, I believe, is somewhat groundbreaking. I believe that it is the most democratic thing we have done with this bill. We've taken a major step towards getting big money out

of municipal campaigns. Now that's not to say the more creative and the more determined of the big money boys won't find ways to continue to insert themselves into municipal campaigns, but it is a start, and it's a good one at that.

Before I say too much about the good stuff that's in this bill—I wouldn't wish to disappoint the members opposite who expect me to say some not-so-good things, especially in my role as opposition critic for municipal affairs and housing—let me touch on something that I think should have been in this bill but it isn't. That, quite simply, is that we've missed an opportunity to be creative, to be progressive and to open up our democratic process to hundreds of thousands of newcomers to our province.

They come here from all over the world, some from our neighbour along our southern border but many more from much more far afield. They come here to work. They come for a safe refuge, in some cases, to escape war, to escape oppression and to find a better home for their families.

They work. They buy homes or rent apartments. They pay municipal taxes. They use our municipal services: our transit systems, our libraries and our schools. They may join the parents' club or the church choir, or they may help coach our soccer teams.

Permanent residents: Many of them take great pride in their new neighbourhoods. They commit themselves to building up the areas in which they choose to live. After everything they've been through in their homelands, they see it almost as a duty to take part in neighbourhood events. They participate in the life of a community. They celebrate life and they celebrate freedom. They are affected by the decisions and actions taken by their municipal politicians. Why shouldn't they have the same right to hold those municipal politicians accountable by exercising their vote? They may or may not be on the path towards Canadian citizenship, but the bottom line is this: They pay municipal taxes and property taxes. They pay them, and yet we deny them the vote for the people who decide on their municipal services. They pay their property taxes, and yet they have absolutely no say. That isn't right.

The city of Toronto knows that. Councillors in Toronto have been asking for the right to allow permanent citizens the right to vote for the past three years. In fact, Toronto councillors believe that they should have the right to vote in provincial elections, as well.

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Now, let's think about that for a moment. Let's look at our recent history if we could—well, relatively recent leadership election history, held by my good friends in the Conservative Party. There was a party insider, Ms. Elliott, the former member from Whitby-Oshawa. She was supported by the vast majority of the PC caucus. Then there was this outsider by the name of Patrick Brown—a federal member of Parliament from Barrie. No one gave him much of a chance. He only had what—three, maybe four members of the provincial caucus who said they would support him?

So what did Mr. Brown do? He assembled a team. He courted supporters in groups and neighbourhoods not normally associated with his party in any big way before. He reached out to newcomers from other countries, folks who spoke languages other than English and French as a mother tongue. He promised them a say in how things were done in Ontario. He said, "Your vote is important, and so are you." And, well, the rest is history.

Mr. Brown won that leadership race. There was no one at the door on voting day saying, "Show me your proof of Canadian citizenship." It didn't happen. You had to be 14 years old and a resident of Ontario. So those who voted were residents of Ontario. They paid their municipal taxes. They used municipal services. They exercised their new right to vote in a leadership campaign and they helped elect someone who nobody gave much of a chance to just a few months previously.

So why, pray tell, if we value the votes of non-residents in that case—voting for the leader of a political party—if we grant them the right and the ability to vote for the leader of a provincial political party, why do we deny those same people from voting for their school board trustee, their city councillor or their mayor? There's a problem with that picture. We could have fixed it with these proposed amendments and we didn't. We allowed that opportunity to slip through our fingers.

Now, this isn't just a Toronto issue. City council in North Bay has voted in support of giving non-residents the right to vote in municipal elections. North Bay is doing what it can to attract newcomers up that way. They see this as an opportunity to get people from other countries to consider their region.

I was reading a story the other day by John Michael McGrath, writing for TVO.org. He was quoting Meg Ramore, the local immigration partnership coordinator for the North Bay and district multicultural council. She was saying, "The more welcoming North Bay is to newcomers, the more newcomers will come to North Bay and bring their talent, their families, their money. Employers are screaming for people, and we've seen newcomers are willing to come here."

Electoral rules get updated all the time, Speaker. I don't have to tell you that. Until the 1960s, only homeowners could vote in Ontario. That right was granted to those who were renters, not owners, just 50 or so years ago. As John Michael McGrath reminded us in the article I just quoted, non-Canadian British subjects could vote in our municipal elections into the 1980s.

There's also a Desmond Cole article I was reading last month. He was talking about the former campaign, I Vote Toronto. The intent of that campaign was to convince then-Premier Dalton McGuinty to extend voting rights to non-citizen permanent residents. Mr. Cole writes:

"The idea that allowing non-citizens to vote will 'devalue' the franchise of citizens is a naked appeal to privilege. In Canada's good old days, white, male, Anglican property owners of a certain age were the only people eligible to vote.

"There is no doubt that as others gained the franchise—women, indigenous people, religious minorities,

people living with disabilities—the value of each privileged, God-fearing white dude’s vote diminished.” That, Mr. Cole says, “was a good thing.” He sees immigrants to our province as the backbone of Ontario’s economy and the source of much of its growth.

Mr. Cole points out that when it comes to extending the municipal vote to non-residents, Ontario is lagging behind the times, because officials in Halifax and in five municipalities in New Brunswick have made the same request of their provincial governments. It’s an idea whose time has come, but unfortunately not at this time and not in this province, whose Liberal government still tries to spin the tired line of being the most progressive ever.

I know that we may take the right to vote for granted; voter turnout at the municipal level in Ontario hovers in the 30% range in many locations. Some politicians see extending voting rights to non-residents as an idea to boost that percentage, but it also sends a powerful message to people from other countries who maybe never had the right to vote: “Not only do we welcome you to your new home, but we value your opinion and we want you to have a say in how we run our schools and our municipalities. You are the ones using our municipal services; you should have a say in how we do that.”

I have great respect for the Liberal member from York South–Weston. I hope to hear in the next few weeks that she has been rewarded for her talent and her hard work by being named to cabinet. But during our committee hearings, the member for York South–Weston, Ms. Albanese, said that she believes extending municipal voting rights to permanent residents is “an important issue” and that it “merits conversation and consultation.” Then I asked the Liberal government—the proposed amendments were put in there for public debate, for consultation: “Why, knowing that the Toronto and North Bay councils were already asking for this, and knowing that politicians on the east coast are way out in front on this issue, didn’t you include this as a possibility at this time?” This was the time to do it. This was the time for public discussion. This was the time to put such subjects on the table, along with everything else, and have people have a say.

You could have left it open as an option for those municipalities that chose to do so. It could have been put in as a voluntary suggestion. Instead, it was ignored, so debate was stifled. That, to me, is a shame.

Speaker, that is one of the failings of this bill. I won’t belabour the issue; I know the time is short. But I would hope that others over there agree with the insightful member from York South–Weston that this is an important issue and does merit more debate and more consultation.

Let’s talk about ranked balloting. We talked a lot about ranked balloting at the committee. Again, ranked balloting is not a top-of-mind, burning issue for most municipalities in Ontario, but it does have very passionate supporters who see it as a long-overdue concept. They see it as a very democratic reform. They say we’ve been using the first past the post system for far too long.

They see municipal councillors being elected with less than 20% of the votes, and they see that as wrong. They want more votes counted: your second choice, should your first not receive 50%, or your third or fourth until one candidate gets support from more than 50% of all the votes cast. They see this as a possibility for more people of colour, more women, more young people being elected; in other words, more new newcomers and fewer incumbents.

Detractors say, “Hold on a moment. This is a fundamental change in the way democracy works in this province—or has worked for 150 years.” They say, “We can’t touch that with a 10-foot pole unless we hold a referendum of all the people first.”

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We were told by one of the delegations that such a referendum in Toronto could cost as much as \$15 million. Obviously, the cost would be much, much less in smaller towns and cities. Some even call for a referendum that wouldn’t be valid unless one side or the other won a super-majority, meaning not 50% plus one but 60% or even higher. To further complicate matters, some detractors say that such a referendum wouldn’t be valid unless the voter turnout was 50% or more. Obviously, the concept of a ranked preferential ballot has touched more than just a few buttons around here.

The intent is to allow municipalities the right to deal with the idea as they see fit—leave it up to them. If they want to hold a referendum, let them hold a referendum. If they don’t, if they just want to take it to a public meeting and make a decision, let them do it that way. If they don’t want to touch it at all, then they don’t have to touch it at all. That’s the voluntary approach taken with this. After all, as my friend the mayor of Tecumseh, Gary McNamara, who is also the president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, says, “Municipal governments are mature orders of government” and “municipal governments are the most open and accessible order of government in Canada.” He says that when it comes to ranked ballots, leave it as a local choice for the municipal leaders to make on a case-by-case basis.

Speaker, in most cases the call for ranked balloting comes from cities with high population counts. Eighty-five per cent of Ontario municipalities have fewer than 50,000 residents, and for the most part this is an issue that has rarely surfaced. That’s not to diminish the concept in any way. I recognize the difficulties and complexities that voters in large metropolitan areas face when trying to determine who to vote for. It’s different in our small towns and medium-sized cities.

If those who advocate for ranked ballots see it as a means of enhancing democracy, I can’t argue with that. I do believe, however, that this is one of those circumstances where we can’t take a cookie-cutter approach and mandate that municipal councils must adopt ranked balloting. It must be left up to individual councils to decide if they want to go that route.

I know that at one time in Toronto, city council under a previous administration was in favour of the concept.

Times have changed. At committee, we were told by a councillor assigned to speak on behalf of the mayor and council—or at least a council committee looking into this—that “ranked-choice voting suffers from a number of democratic shortcomings which cannot be overcome.”

In fact, ward 5 councillor Justin Di Ciano says, “Contrary to what Torontonians and the broader public have been led to believe, ranked-choice voting does not guarantee a majority result. RCV is a plurality system, just like first past the post. The federal United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has gone as far as ruling that ranked-choice voting is not a majority system and in fact remains a plurality system.”

So it doesn’t look like a ranked ballot will be coming to a polling station in Toronto any time soon. That’s not to say we won’t see it in Ottawa, Oakville, Kingston, London or anyplace else that has been looking into it. Maybe, if it gets adopted and has proven a success in some of those areas, it can be revisited in Toronto. Who knows?

Speaking of revisiting, there is part of the bill that concerns the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario. It’s the part that puts the onus on the city clerk to oversee the campaign financial statements filed by the candidates. This puts the clerk in a bit of a conflict of interest because the elected councillors automatically become the employer—the boss, if you will—of the clerk. It’s expected normally that they would have a good working relationship—even cordial. They see each other a lot, and they have to work together.

So what happens if the clerk, in looking at the filed financial statements, uncovers something wrong: either something that was perhaps meant to be hidden or not accounted for, or something embarrassing to the new councillor or the incumbent such as, I don’t know, say, a contributor has given too much money, more money than the limit allowed? When the clerks were surveyed by their association, only 21% of them said that they would feel comfortable fulfilling that responsibility of blowing the whistle on the new councillor or the incumbent councillor.

You see, Speaker, the clerk is supposed to blow the whistle and take action against their boss. This puts the clerk between a rock and a hard place. According to Stephen O’Brien, the clerk in Guelph who’s also the chair of the association’s Municipal Elections Act advisory team, “This new requirement puts the clerk in an impossible situation. They must on the one hand build a positive working relationship with council, while on the other hand monitor campaign contributions to those very same councillors—and bear in mind that we’re also appointed and serve at the pleasure of our councils. While collaboration with members of council is important for the healthy functioning of a council-clerk relationship, it places the clerk in a potential conflict whenever they have to deal with election compliance.”

The clerks hold the view that such oversight properly belongs to an ad hoc audit and compliance committee, at arm’s length from the clerk and administrative staff. It’s hard to argue with that. Why would you intentionally, as

this bill does, put the clerk in an impossible situation—between a rock and a hard place—having to blow the whistle if they find something that shouldn’t be there in the audited financial statements? Why not have someone outside, someone giving the authority to audit the campaign financial statements—have them, if there’s a problem, blow the whistle and bring it to city council for determination.

Indeed, one of our witnesses is a former MPP, a former school board trustee and a long-time former city councillor in Ottawa. Alex Cullen told us that in Ottawa a blue-ribbon panel was appointed for just such a role, the outside audit compliance committee role, appointed by city council. One of its members—get this, Speaker—included a former Chief Electoral Officer of Canada. It doesn’t get much better than that. They acted on a complaint from a citizen on a campaign reporting irregularity. They did the compliance audit, they held a public hearing, and they found an incumbent councillor guilty as suggested by the citizen. The blue-ribbon panel recommended unanimously that the candidate be prosecuted. But the candidate in question was an incumbent and the clerk declined to prosecute.

Mr. Cullen’s view is that such matters should not lie with the discretion of an employee of council. He was a councillor in Ottawa for 16 years, and he believes the relationship between a clerk and a council is normally too close to rely on this method of oversight. And yet that’s what we’re stuck with.

There’s no reason for it. There’s no reason why the government couldn’t see this coming. There’s no reason why the government didn’t listen when they heard from the association of clerks, managers and treasurers of Ontario and say, “Oh, jeez, we weren’t thinking about that. This is a problem. How do we fix it?” The way to fix it is to strip away those responsibilities from the clerk and give it to an outside blue-ribbon panel, if you will, appointed by city council, to look at any suggestion of indiscretion on behalf of any candidate when they file their financial compliance audits. It could have been an easy fix. Instead, it’s going to be a headache right across the province for a lot of clerks and treasurers, a lot of people who have to work with the councillors who are coming in and who have bungled in some way their financial accounting.

Let me just touch on third-party advertising for a moment. That’s another major issue we had for the committee. Speaker, I must say, in many ways, some of us were left wondering about the timing of this bill and the provisions in there—and we’re talking municipal politics. In many ways, the issues are identical to the ones being considered not just at the municipal level but for provincial elections as well. At times, it felt like we were a sounding board, a trial run, if you will, for pending changes to the provincial act to amend the way we do our provincial business.

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Third-party advertising: It’s not nearly as big an issue at the municipal level as it is during provincial or federal campaigns. What we have is what some people see as a

six-month gag order imposed on groups that may have a burning desire to wade in during a municipal election campaign. There's no low-end spending threshold that would exempt small community groups from taking a side.

We know—we've talked about it in this House before—the problem in British Columbia, that there's no low-end limit there. That law has been challenged. It has made its way all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. In British Columbia—and this is at the provincial level—for example, if you even have a bumper sticker that takes a position on one of the platforms of one of the parties in the provincial election, like "Save the trees," "Save the whales," whatever it is, if they wanted to prosecute you for having that bumper sticker or for wearing a T-shirt with a political statement on it, they can do it because there's no low-end spending limit. A third party, a charity, a non-profit group or anybody that prints off some literature and hands it out in their neighbourhood—"Save the trees," "Save our park," whatever it is—if they don't comply and register as a third party, they face legal action because there's no low-end spending limit. We tried to make that a point here.

We know—we talked about this before—that the government of Ontario has asked for intervenor status in the federal court, at the Supreme Court, for the BC court case, and we're wondering why. But now, when they bring in this bill and don't have a low-end spending limit on it, it makes you wonder: What are they trying to stifle? Why is there a gag order going to be imposed on any third party? Why are they trying to gag citizens from having a voice during municipal elections? We're only at the municipal level now; we're not talking provincial. But if they get away with it at the municipal level, does that mean they're automatically going to do it at the provincial level as well?

Are we going to be allowed to speak out during municipal campaigns on any issues? With what's before us right now, no. It's for the duration, from the time you file your papers to the time of the election. That's six months.

I mentioned earlier, as the member from Oxford has also mentioned, that Robert MacDermid, who was one of the witnesses at committee, teaches political science here in the city at York University. He has warned the government already that this will be subject to a court challenge in the Supreme Court because it goes against our Constitution and freedom of speech. You can't shut somebody down for six months and prevent them from speaking out during the term of a municipal election. He's already warned the government. When we tried to put in a low-end spending limit by way of amendment to say, "Look, guys, just look at it this way—save yourselves some trouble. If these groups want to speak, if they want to run off some literature and pass it around in their neighbourhood, allow them to do it," and the answer was, "No, we're sticking to what we have."

There is a favourable section in the bill dealing with the disabled. We heard from John Rae, who came from a

disability group. He said that the legislation makes it mandatory for the clerk to develop a barrier-free plan for polling stations at any place that will be hosting meet-the-candidates meetings. That's absolutely correct: We have to make Ontario barrier-free. We have not been doing enough in this province since we introduced the Ontarians with Disabilities Act. Talk to David Lepofsky, one of the world's experts on disability issues, and he'll tell you that we're in real danger of not meeting the deadlines that that act has placed on the government. We're just not doing enough to get action.

In this bill, the clerk is mandated to come up with a plan to make sure that any polling station or any community meeting room where there will be meet-the-candidate nights, evenings, afternoons or breakfasts must be barrier-free. The clerk has to go out and physically examine the circumstances of those situations and come up with a report. The problem with that section of the bill is, that report on how well we did comes in after the election is over, as opposed to mandating that it's an ongoing process and that the reports come in during the campaign so any action that needs to be taken is actually taken before we get to voting day.

Mr. Rae said that if you want to be really barrier-free, you have to look at the technology that we have to vote with; you have to consider methods other than the traditional methods. He wants that included as part of that report as well because, to be barrier-free, perhaps you do boost voter turnout if those with disabilities register in advance and want to vote with a PIN number over the phone, over their computer or by some method other than actually going to a polling station and filling in a ballot. That plan could have been improved, and perhaps it will at some point. But right now, it isn't.

I must say, there was a feeling amongst many of the people we spoke to that the bill was rushed, that it was being pushed through in a hurry for some political purpose. There's even a section towards the end that they seem to tag on there that's basically a notwithstanding clause, meaning notwithstanding anything in the bill, the minister, at the minister's discretion, can disregard it all and do whatever the minister wants to do. I suppose one could say that the intent is for the minister to be able to recover from anything that has slipped through unnoticed but discovered as a problem later that needs to be fixed. But it could also be seen as being there as a backup plan in case of political fallout or a funder revolt or anything that would allow the minister to change the wording to something more suitable to those who objected to something that was in the bill.

We heard from a number of people from Toronto, from Ottawa, from elsewhere, who spoke of the need to allow municipal candidates, should they so choose—to allow the name of their political party to be on the ballot, meaning that it could say, "Percy Hatfield, Green Party of Toronto" or "Toronto Green Party" or "Independent" or whatever. They wanted the ability, through the legislation, to identify at the municipal level whatever political party or civic party they belong to.

They didn't get very far with that suggestion, but they feel it is a strong, democratic motivation to increase the vote, to say to the voters, "Look, you know what the Toronto Green Party stands for or the Toronto Civic Party, and I'm a member of that party so I stand for everything that they stand for." They think they would increase the voting turnout by that. They believe they would get more people elected who are normally more on the fringe on the ballot because people don't know their name; they're not an incumbent and they're not normally written about in the newspapers or heard on the radio. So they think they would have a better chance if they could identify by party.

You wouldn't necessarily have to call yourself a Liberal, a Conservative or a New Democrat. I suppose you could, if you so chose. But if you wanted to be known as a Green Party candidate or a Toronto Civic Party candidate—they wanted that ability. They wanted it in Ottawa as well.

We had a political science professor come in and say, "Look, if you really want to increase the turnout," because we know it's not very good in municipal campaigns, "hold your municipal elections on a Sunday." In the old days in Ontario, referendums and elections were held on Sundays. He said, "Most people aren't working on Sundays." Some people are. We have to respect that.

1620

But when you hold an election, when you hold a polling station in a school, for example, it would be easier for the school administrators to hold elections on days, be it a PD day or a Sunday—if you could think ahead and close the schools the day of the municipal election, because you have the security issues. You don't want strangers wandering around the classrooms. You have the janitorial/custodial issues, as well.

Very good suggestions—and what better time to think about times we vote, be it on holidays, be it on Sundays, be it on days when the schools are closed, because, as you know, Speaker, in many municipalities, most of the polling stations actually are in our elementary schools or our high schools. If you could do it on days when they were closed to the students, that might help in terms of security and so on.

Some people thought there should be term limits on the number of terms you could actually serve on council. The other side of that coin is that, other than, I suppose, the Canadian Senate, which has an age limit, there is no real term limit that I'm aware of in Canada. But that's not to say that it's a bad idea. I mean, we all have our shelf life and a best-before date, and some people have been around—be it federal, provincial or municipal politics—a long time. The idea of term limits, I believe, is something that we could have a discussion about.

There was also a suggestion by my friend from Oxford, who suggested that we can't make any changes at all unless we have a binding referendum on the way we do a democratic process in Ontario. The barb tossed back in his direction was that, back in the Harris days, when the Harris government regionalized many of the

municipalities and squeezed them down into one across the province, nobody thought then to do it by referendum first to see what the people who were going to be affected felt about that. But that was just one of the barbs that was tossed out there.

What else? The voters list. Gosh, the municipal voters list is as bad as the provincial voters list, which, I'm sure, is as bad as the federal voters list. Of all the brains that we have in all the three orders of government, surely, through MPAC, driver's licences or health cards or whatever it is, with all the modern technology we have in the world today, why can't we come up with a suitable, acceptable, practical list of voters? It just seems like they are so outdated.

It's not just in one area of the province; it's right across the province, Speaker. No matter where you go, you talk to anybody in this chamber, you talk to anyone on their town council or their city council, the voters list is absolutely—I wouldn't say "useless." I mean, it does have many names that are there, but you really have to dig down deep to find out exactly what the most up-to-date information is.

I just want to compliment, as well, when I think about it, the chair of our committee, the member for Etobicoke—Lakeshore, Mr. Milczyn. He did an excellent job at the committee level, guiding us through the presentations of those who came to speak.

I know that there was a city councillor from Toronto, Jim Karygiannis, who used to be a federal Liberal member of Parliament, who came. He spoke about the need for almost a municipal returning officer, available to answer questions, as we have at the provincial level, when candidates run at the municipal level and they have questions on "Is this allowed, or do I have to do something different?" There's really nobody at the municipal level that he found who could answer those questions, be it around fundraising: "How much can I raise? Where can I raise it? What gifts can I write off after?"—all of those questions. There was nobody really at Toronto city hall when he was running who could answer those questions for him.

I know that I found the same thing, time and time again, when I was on city council in Windsor. I would say to the city solicitor, "Do you think I'm in a conflict on this because of this or that?" He would say, "If you think you're in a conflict, declare a conflict. That's the easy way out." He said that his job was to advise the city on municipal matters; it wasn't to advise individual councillors on whether they had a conflict or not.

What we're faced with here is an act that is going to change the way municipal elections are run in Ontario. Some of the improvements are going to be accepted; some are going to be challenged, as we've heard; some will make some people happy and won't make others happy; and some will be totally ignored, but that is to be expected.

Municipal candidates know what they have to do. They used to be able to register in January. They won't be able to do that anymore, so they can't start collecting

money for their campaigns until much later in the year. It was put to the committee that that gives the incumbents an advantage and newcomers a big disadvantage because they can't go out and actually raise money. They can't even distribute literature, because they can't spend money on their own literature to say, "I'm going to be running." It doesn't mean you can't hold a news conference and say, "At the first opportunity, I will be signing my application form to be a candidate for mayor or to be a councillor in this or that ward," but they can't do it in January anymore.

I used to take advantage of that when I ran. You'd register early and get noticed every time somebody else jumped into the race. They'd say, "So far the only other candidate is," and list the one or two who had registered. I saw it as an advantage to get my name out there. But now, with this change in the legislation, you won't be able to do that until much later in the year. We're going to hear pros and cons on that.

I know you're also going to hear more about the number of names it takes on your nomination form. You're going to hear more about the cost: If you want to run for mayor in a major municipality, you should have to pay a lot more, to try to weed out fringe candidates. Incumbents certainly like that idea; people who like to run and have their voice heard, maybe not so much.

All in all, I think that for the most part the bill has some things in it—I mentioned earlier about getting big money out of municipal campaigns. I think that is the biggest move we've made with this proposed legislation—long overdue. I mean, there's just no need for it, and if we can clean up that aspect of municipal councils, then I think we've really accomplished a lot.

As I said earlier, I don't mean to impugn motives or impugn reputations by saying that if you've accepted money from developers, you're automatically a bad guy or a bad woman. It's just that the perception in some municipalities is that developers are calling the shots, that urban sprawl is getting ahead of urban planning, and that we should be doing more infill and concentrating more on the inside and building a stronger core before we extend outward. This bill, perhaps, will curb some of that enthusiasm for developers to fund so many candidates.

That's not to say that candidates who have been funded by developers were beholden in any way. If I were a developer looking for somebody to donate to and I knew that Randy Pettapiece was going to be elected—he always gets elected, and he always gets elected by 20,000 votes—then why wouldn't I give money to Randy Pettapiece just so that he could return my calls, perhaps, when I want a call?

**Mr. Randy Pettapiece:** I'll give you my address, okay?

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** I'll get your address.

That's the idea: It's not that you're necessarily funding your own people. You might be supporting those who are going to win anyway, despite your money, but you just want to retain a relationship with them. That's not to say that if you don't do that, you can't establish a relationship

with anybody you didn't fund, but I think the bottom line is that big money is coming out of municipal campaigns.

**1630**

In the same way—I don't have a crystal ball in front of me. I do have a glass of water, from which I'll take a drink. But in the same way we're going to do it at the provincial level, the same way that they've done it in Toronto and the same way they have done it in Ottawa, it's time to get the big money—corporate money and a little bit of union money—out of our campaigns, and do it in a different fashion.

Some municipalities already offer a subsidy on the number of votes earned or received. You get a certain dollar amount—maybe not quite a dollar—back for every vote that you receive, and that helps fund municipal campaigns. It helps fund people who otherwise perhaps wouldn't get money from certain segments of the industry, people who take an interest in municipal politics. That's a good thing. That's something that may be expanded. There may have to be caps and limitations put on that sort of thing, but at least this bill gets us started in the right direction on that.

I'll go back to the missed opportunity we had on looking at other ways this bill could have been improved by talking to newcomers to our province and giving them an opportunity for a vote. I really hope that the government will at some point take this as a serious suggestion and try to work it in there, because we have so many newcomers coming to Ontario. We ask them to come here. We rely on their skills, their expertise, their training. We want them to feel welcome. We know it could take three or four years or more to get citizenship papers. The last I heard, the tests were becoming much more difficult than they used to be; the pass rate is going down. Our municipal elections are only every four years, so it's not something that can't be done in the future. But to leave it out there as something we don't want to talk about at all, I think, is wrong.

It's the same with the other suggestions, be it putting the party name on the ballot or voting on a Sunday or a PD day. I think there are ways that we can improve the bill, even without legislation now, but through regulation. When it comes to the way we conduct our municipal business, the way we conduct our municipal elections and the way we finance our municipal campaigns, I think there are lessons learned, and we can learn from them.

I still do feel bad for the clerks and treasurers, the clerks who have to do the financial audit compliance on the campaign statements filed by candidates. They really will be between a rock and a hard place, because they have to blow the whistle on anything they find that didn't work out or wasn't up to the exacting standards that each candidate had to comply with. Believe you me, reporting on your campaign donations and contributions—depending on how many you get, of course, but if you're getting a large number, then you have to be very exact. That's one of the most important parts of any campaign, provincial, federal or municipal: You have to keep account of the money. You have to account for everything that is brought in and everything that is spent. By putting that

onus on the clerk, when the clerk has so many other duties, as opposed to an outside audit compliance committee, I think the government has made a mistake. I hope that they can see fit between now and the passage of the bill, when they put it into regulation, that that duty can be reassigned to somebody else: somebody more arm's-length, somebody who doesn't have to deal with, on a daily basis, the councillors they are scrutinizing and reporting on.

Those are just some of the ideas, Speaker. I know that there are lots of other ones out there.

As I say, you can expect a court challenge on the gag order that the third-party advertising puts on people for six months, that tells you not to say anything about anything going on in the municipal campaign. That is something, again, that the government could have looked at, didn't look at, but still has time to improve, should they so decide. But it's one of the areas that we need to turn our attention to because the purpose behind these bills, I believe, is to get them right, get them right as much as we can the first time out, and try to improve, as we go along, any of the legislative changes that we get there.

I don't want to eat up any more of your time, Speaker. I probably went on too long, but I want to thank you for the opportunity to stand in the House on behalf of the good people in Windsor-Tecumseh and have a say and try to bring some of attention to some of the issues this afternoon.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Questions or comments? Further debate?

Mr. McMeekin has moved third reading of Bill 181, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and to make complementary amendments to other Acts. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard some noes.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. This will be a 30-minute bell.

I wish to inform the House that I have received a vote deferral request pursuant to standing order 28(h), requesting that the vote on third reading of Bill 181 be deferred until the time of deferred votes tomorrow. It's signed by the chief government whip.

*Third reading vote deferred.*

## ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT DES LOIS CONCERNANT LES SERVICES FINANCIERS DE RECHANGE

Resuming the debate adjourned on May 11, 2016, on the motion for second reading of the following bill:

Bill 156, An Act to amend various Acts with respect to financial services / Projet de loi 156, Loi modifiant diverses lois concernant les services financiers.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Further debate?

**Mr. Jack MacLaren:** I rise today to continue debate on Bill 156, the Alternative Financial Services Statute Law Amendment Act. The proposed legislation represents a complex issue regarding the alternative financial services industry in this province. The government's motion is far-reaching and will amend the Consumer Protection Act, the Collection and Debt Settlement Services Act and the Payday Loans Act.

Unfortunately, this legislation does nothing to address important issues at hand. Unless amended, this legislation will only make things worse. As many of my colleagues have already stated, this bill is just bad legislation. We can't support this bill until the concerns we have raised regarding the amendments are recognized and understood by this government.

One of the biggest problems with this legislation is that this bill is more micromanaging than creating a safer and more informed consumer environment.

This government has a history of micromanaging. As my colleagues well know, it just loves red tape. The issue of micromanaging and creating excessive regulations goes hand in hand with the MO of this government. In fact, their own special adviser, Ed Clark, was quoted in the Star as saying, "Ontario has 380,000 regulatory requirements for businesses, almost double the number in some provinces."

He went on to further say, "While the number is staggering, the structure and complexity of compliance is even more problematic."

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This type of approach makes Ontario less competitive. Who is going to want to move to this province and do business if they have to go through all of this red tape? Who would want to move a business to a province with one of the highest numbers of regulations in North America? Under the Liberals, we are seen as one of the slowest places to do business in the world.

I was reading an article in the National Post by Philip Cross. He talks about the micromanaging and red tape created by this government. He tells a story about Ontario's ladder law. This new law requires anyone working with a ladder in the building and trades association to take an online government course at a cost of \$29. Can you imagine? You graduate from a trades school, and the Liberals think you need to take a course on how to use a ladder. I'm sorry, but any contractor who can't use a ladder probably shouldn't be in the trades business.

Another example from a few years ago was the requirement to force all barbers to obtain an occupational licence with a \$140 fee attached. As Mr. Cross pointed out in the article, "The market has always protected the consumer from barbers who either can't trim properly or lack a rapport with customers, by quickly driving them out of business."

Many of my colleagues have highlighted the need for financial literacy. In fact, the member from Leeds-Grenville expressed concern that money management

should be part of the secondary school curriculum. The need for education starts with our youth.

An article in MoneySense from November 2013 provided a shocking statistic, that “39% of Ontario high school students feel ill-equipped when it comes to money” management. “Parents and teens want financial education in the classroom.” According to a new survey for the Investor Education Fund, 84% of Ontario parents and 70% of teens agree that “students aren’t prepared to manage their money after high school.”

“Financial education was introduced in the Ontario school curriculum for grades 4-12 in fall 2012. One year later, more than a quarter ... of parents don’t think it’s being taught and more than half ... say they aren’t sure if it is.”

Education is key. Students need to leave high school knowing how to spend their money while living on a budget.

Our leader, the member for Simcoe North, has rightly identified that portions of this proposed legislation are incomplete. Further amendments are needed. I quote from an article in the *Toronto Star* in December 2015 about Ontario’s plans for tighter rules for payday loan companies:

The “Progressive Conservative leader ... said he was disappointed in the lack of specifics in” the minister’s “announcement and is looking forward to more detail.” I imagine he’s just as disappointed today.

“I think government has a role to play to make sure people aren’t taken advantage of,” said the member for Simcoe North. I couldn’t agree more.

Since coming to power in 2003, this government has hit Ontario families with continual tax increases such as the health tax, eco taxes, the hidden hydro tax, the electronics tax, the tire tax, increased taxes on tobacco and wine, increased airline travel costs, increased fees on driver’s licences and health cards and hunting and fishing licences, the Ontario Registered Pension Plan and the cap-and-trade program, leading to increased costs of 4.3 cents per litre on fuel and 3.3 cents per cubic metre on natural gas, while at the same time the government is eliminating tax credits for programs like the tuition and education tax credits, the children’s activity tax credit and the Healthy Homes Renovation Tax Credit in the 2016 budget, and delisting OHIP services for eye exams, chiropractic services and physiotherapy.

The list goes on with increases and mismanagement to include continuing to force Ontarians to pay for the ridiculous Drive Clean program e-test fee, a program about which the Auditor General said in 2012, “Vehicle emissions have declined significantly since Drive Clean’s inception in 1999, to the point that they are no longer among the major domestic contributors to smog in Ontario.”

This is in addition to continued increases in hydro rates associated with their green energy policies.

We have issues concerning Bill 156, the Alternative Financial Services Statute Law Amendment Act. The government claims there would be increased protection

for consumers in several ways. However, adding rules to keep people with money problems from accessing legal ways of obtaining emergency cash without providing them with a clear path to financial stability may well drive them to the illegal loan market.

From reviewing the content of this bill, we call on the government to amend this legislation. This legislation is short on details, long on rhetoric and, simply, legislatively incomplete. We look forward to further clarification. To reiterate what many of my colleagues have been advocating: If the Liberal government would focus more on eliminating the waste and mismanagement in how it runs the Ontario economy and stop nickel-and-diming Ontarians, perhaps then individuals would not have to turn to these institutions in times of dire need.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Questions and comments? The Minister of Government Services.

**Hon. David Orazietti:** I will be brief, Speaker, but I did want to respond to the member from Carleton–Mississippi Mills. I thank him for his contribution to the debate this afternoon and appreciate the feedback from all sides on this particular issue and on Bill 156. I look forward to further discussion on this at committee, and reinforce that our government is committed to making improvements to specific areas through Bill 156: cheque-cashing, rent-to-own services, debt collection, instalment loans and, of course, payday lending.

We’ve just recently concluded a consultation publicly on the Regulatory Registry around different rates of borrowing. We look forward to, and are currently reviewing, that information.

Again, I want to encourage all members of the Legislature to support this very, very important legislation that broadens protections for consumers across Ontario.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Questions or comments?

The member for Carleton–Mississippi Mills may reply.

**Mr. Jack MacLaren:** Minister, I would say it is fairly clear that this legislation is well-intended, but it does not quite hit the mark or achieve the goal. In fact, it is a tricky matter of what needs to be done to make things right. I would say that the fact there is even a need to consider such amendments to legislation like this—and to be talking about payday loans—is an indication that we’ve got some serious problems in the province, where people are desperate for credit and are forced to go to non-conventional sources of money, such as payday loan cash establishments, because they’re unable to get credit at conventional banks and other places or with their credit cards.

Those indications would indicate that we have people in need of money—perhaps because they can’t find good work, perhaps because we have high unemployment in Ontario—and that we have an ailing economy which is forcing people to do things as a last resort, like payday loans. Those are really the problems that we need to be addressing and fixing. It’s the economic health of the

province of Ontario. This is nothing but an indication that our economy is sick and needs to be remedied. It's taken a long time to get in this much trouble, and it's going to take quite a while to get back out of this major hole that we're in.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Further debate? Further debate?

Mr. Oraziotti has moved second reading of Bill 156, An Act to amend various Acts with respect to financial services. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard some noes.

All those in favour of the motion will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

Call in the members. This will be a 30-minute bell.

*Interjection.*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** I wish to inform the House that I've received a request for a deferral of this vote, pursuant to standing order 28(h), requesting that the vote on second reading of Bill 156 be deferred until the time for deferred votes tomorrow, Tuesday, June 7, 2016, signed by the chief government whip.

*Second reading vote deferred.*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Orders of the day? I recognize the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

**Hon. Bill Mauro:** I move adjournment of the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Ted Arnott):** Mr. Mauro has moved the adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

This House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10:30.

*The House adjourned at 1652.*

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

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Speaker / Président: Hon. / L'hon. Dave Levac

Clerk / Greffière: Deborah Deller

Clerks-at-the-Table / Greffiers parlementaires: Todd Decker, Tonia Grannum, Trevor Day, William Short

Sergeant-at-Arms / Sergent d'armes: Dennis Clark

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
Albanese, Laura (LIB)	York South–Weston / York-Sud–Weston	
Anderson, Granville (LIB)	Durham	
Armstrong, Teresa J. (NDP)	London–Fanshawe	
<b>Arnott, Ted (PC)</b>	Wellington–Halton Hills	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House / Premier vice-président du comité plénier de l'Assemblée
Bailey, Robert (PC)	Sarnia–Lambton	
Baker, Yvan (LIB)	Etobicoke Centre / Etobicoke-Centre	
Ballard, Chris (LIB)	Newmarket–Aurora	
Barrett, Toby (PC)	Haldimand–Norfolk	
Berardinetti, Lorenzo (LIB)	Scarborough Southwest / Scarborough-Sud-Ouest	
Bisson, Gilles (NDP)	Timmins–James Bay / Timmins–Baie James	
<b>Bradley, Hon. / L'hon. James J. (LIB)</b>	St. Catharines	Chair of Cabinet / Président du Conseil des ministres Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Deputy Government House Leader / Leader parlementaire adjoint du gouvernement Leader, Official Opposition / Chef de l'opposition officielle
Brown, Patrick (PC)	Simcoe North / Simcoe-Nord	
Campbell, Sarah (NDP)	Kenora–Rainy River	
<b>Chan, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Markham–Unionville	Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade / Ministre des Affaires civiles, de l'Immigration et du Commerce international
<b>Chiarelli, Hon. / L'hon. Bob (LIB)</b>	Ottawa West–Nepean / Ottawa-Ouest–Nepean	Minister of Energy / Ministre de l'Énergie
Clark, Steve (PC)	Leeds–Grenville	Deputy Leader, Official Opposition / Chef adjoint de l'opposition officielle
Coe, Lorne (PC)	Whitby–Oshawa	
Colle, Mike (LIB)	Eglinton–Lawrence	
<b>Coteau, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Don Valley East / Don Valley-Est	Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport / Ministre du Tourisme, de la Culture et du Sport Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism Minister Responsible for the 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games / Ministre responsable des Jeux panaméricains et parapanaméricains de 2015
Crack, Grant (LIB)	Glengarry–Prescott–Russell	
<b>Damerla, Hon. / L'hon. Dipika (LIB)</b>	Mississauga East–Cooksville / Mississauga-Est–Cooksville	Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Long-Term Care and Wellness) / Ministre associée de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée (Soins de longue durée et Promotion du mieux-être) Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Minister of Transportation / Ministre des Transports
<b>Del Duca, Hon. / L'hon. Steven (LIB)</b>	Vaughan	
Delaney, Bob (LIB)	Mississauga–Streetsville	
Dhillon, Vic (LIB)	Brampton West / Brampton-Ouest	
Dickson, Joe (LIB)	Ajax–Pickering	
DiNovo, Cheri (NDP)	Parkdale–High Park	
Dong, Han (LIB)	Trinity–Spadina	
<b>Duguid, Hon. / L'hon. Brad (LIB)</b>	Scarborough Centre / Scarborough-Centre	Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure / Ministre du Développement économique, de l'Emploi et de l'Infrastructure
Fedeli, Victor (PC)	Nipissing	
Fife, Catherine (NDP)	Kitchener–Waterloo	
<b>Flynn, Hon. / L'hon. Kevin Daniel (LIB)</b>	Oakville	Minister of Labour / Ministre du Travail
Forster, Cindy (NDP)	Welland	
Fraser, John (LIB)	Ottawa South / Ottawa-Sud	

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
French, Jennifer K. (NDP)	Oshawa	
Gates, Wayne (NDP)	Niagara Falls	
Gélinas, France (NDP)	Nickel Belt	
<b>Gravelle, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Thunder Bay–Superior North / Thunder Bay–Superior-Nord	Minister of Northern Development and Mines / Ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Gretzky, Lisa (NDP)	Windsor West / Windsor-Ouest	
Hardeman, Ernie (PC)	Oxford	
Harris, Michael (PC)	Kitchener–Conestoga	
Hatfield, Percy (NDP)	Windsor–Tecumseh	
Hillier, Randy (PC)	Lanark–Frontenac–Lennox and Addington	
Hoggarth, Ann (LIB)	Barrie	
Horwath, Andrea (NDP)	Hamilton Centre / Hamilton-Centre	Leader, Recognized Party / Chef de parti reconnu Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario / Chef du Nouveau parti démocratique de l'Ontario
<b>Hoskins, Hon. / L'hon. Eric (LIB)</b>	St. Paul's	Minister of Health and Long-Term Care / Ministre de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée
Hudak, Tim (PC)	Niagara West–Glanbrook / Niagara- Ouest–Glanbrook	
<b>Hunter, Hon. / L'hon. Mitzie (LIB)</b>	Scarborough–Guildwood	Associate Minister of Finance (Ontario Retirement Pension Plan) / Ministre associée des Finances (Régime de retraite de la province de l'Ontario)
<b>Jaczek, Hon. / L'hon. Helena (LIB)</b>	Oak Ridges–Markham	Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Minister of Community and Social Services / Ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Jones, Sylvia (PC)	Dufferin–Caledon	Deputy Leader, Official Opposition / Chef adjointe de l'opposition officielle
Kiwala, Sophie (LIB)	Kingston and the Islands / Kingston et les Îles	
Kwinter, Monte (LIB)	York Centre / York-Centre	
Lalonde, Marie-France (LIB)	Ottawa–Orléans	
<b>Leal, Hon. / L'hon. Jeff (LIB)</b>	Peterborough	Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs / Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales
<b>Levac, Hon. / L'hon. Dave (LIB)</b>	Brant	Speaker / Président de l'Assemblée législative
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MacLeod, Lisa (PC)	Nepean–Carleton	
Malhi, Harinder (LIB)	Brampton–Springdale	
Mangat, Amrit (LIB)	Mississauga–Brampton South / Mississauga–Brampton-Sud	
Mantha, Michael (NDP)	Algoma–Manitoulin	
Martins, Cristina (LIB)	Davenport	
Martow, Gila (PC)	Thornhill	
<b>Matthews, Hon. / L'hon. Deborah (LIB)</b>	London North Centre / London- Centre-Nord	Deputy Premier / Vice-première ministre Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy / Ministre responsable de la Stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté President of the Treasury Board / Présidente du Conseil du Trésor
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Qaadri, Shafiq (LIB)	Etobicoke North / Etobicoke-Nord	
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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

First Session, 41<sup>st</sup> Parliament

## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Première session, 41<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Tuesday 7 June 2016

Mardi 7 juin 2016



Speaker  
Honourable Dave Levac

Président  
L'honorable Dave Levac

Clerk  
Deborah Deller

Greffière  
Deborah Deller

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## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday 7 June 2016

## ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

Mardi 7 juin 2016

*The House met at 1030.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Good morning. Please join me in prayer.

*Prayers.*

### WEARING OF JERSEYS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Point of order, the government House leader.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Speaker, I have a point of order that you may like. I believe you will find we have unanimous consent that members of the Esso Cup-winning Brantford Ice Cats be permitted to wear their jerseys in the House today.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The government House leader is seeking unanimous consent to allow the Ice Cats to wear their jerseys in the House. Do we agree? Agreed. Why, thank you very much.

*Applause.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** You've jumped the gun. I haven't even introduced them yet.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise today to introduce guests from the Ontario Association of Optometrists: the president, Dr. Jeff Goodhew, and my good friend Doug DeRabbie.

**Hon. Kevin Daniel Flynn:** I'd like to welcome the Oakville Provincial Youth Advisory Committee to Queen's Park this morning. Joining us is Daniel Park, Colten Slater, Amy Davies, Konstantin Lenz Gil, Kevin Zhou, Justine Jasnich, Victoria Glista, Brad Cooke and a member of my staff accompanying them, Judy Rivard. Please welcome them to Queen's Park, Speaker.

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** It's a great pleasure to introduce in the House, on behalf of the MPP from Mississauga-Brampton South, Amrit Mangat, page captain Alina Saleh; her mother, Saiqa Saleh; her father, Naeem Saleh; and sister Rania Saleh. They are here in our gallery. Welcome to the Legislature.

**Ms. Lisa M. Thompson:** They're not here yet and I wish they could be, but I am really pleased to welcome the grade 10 civics classes from F.E. Madill Secondary School in Wingham and their teachers, Ms. Matchett and Mrs. Payne. They'll be here shortly, though.

**Hon. Kevin Daniel Flynn:** I think everybody could be a little late this morning.

Our page captain this morning is Katelyn Recagno. Her father, Keiron Recagno, and her granddad Francis

Recagno are joining us in the public gallery. Please welcome them to Queen's Park.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** According to the unanimous consent, I will now introduce officially. I am honoured today to host special guests from Brantford. In the Speaker's gallery are the Brantford Ice Cats, the hockey team who won a gold trophy for the national female midget championship. The players here this morning are: Emma, Olivia, Jillian, Katrina, Emily, Avery, Paige, Chenelle, Brooklyn, Lauren, Taylor, Avery, Nicole, Paige and Kayla. With them are the staff and parents.

Congratulations on the national championship. We're very proud of the young ladies. There will be a photo being taken on the steps if anyone wants to do that after question period.

### REPORT, FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I beg to inform the House that today I've laid upon the table a report from the Financial Accountability Officer of Ontario entitled Backgrounder: Ontario Service Fees in 2016-17.

### RECEPTION

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Point of order, the member from Nepean-Carlton.

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** I've just distributed on everyone's desk an invitation for this evening, between 5:30 and 6:30, in my room, 451, to celebrate the passage of Rowan's Law, hopefully, with the family of Rowan Stringer and hockey legend Eric Lindros. I hope all members will think about coming.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. It's time for question period.

### ORAL QUESTIONS

#### GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** My question is for the Deputy Premier. Yesterday, the member for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock revealed that the Liberal government has invested only \$190,000 of the funds they promised to fight human trafficking. This was on the same day that we learned the government spent nearly \$1 million on David Herle, the Liberals' preferred pollster—interesting priorities for this Liberal government.

Mr. Speaker, can the Deputy Premier tell the women who were forced into trafficking why it is more important to reward their Liberal crony David Herle?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** I will refer this to the Attorney General.

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** I'm very pleased with what our government is doing about human trafficking. Like I said yesterday, it's a real tragedy.

I was with my colleague from Ottawa Centre at the opening of a consultation on human trafficking.

It's unbelievable. We don't know enough about human trafficking. We should know a lot more about human trafficking because it's happening in our communities and it's happening all over the province and the country.

Our government has a coordinated approach to combat human trafficking and raise awareness of this issue, including initiatives focused on prevention, enforcement and support for victims.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out to the member opposite, when they were in power—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

Supplementary?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Back to the Deputy Premier: The money that this Liberal government and the Premier gave to David Herle and the Gandalf Group could have taken 18 children off the IBI treatment wait-list for this year. David Herle's polling might have told you that cutting IBI is a good idea, but real parents say otherwise.

David Herle's payout could have hired 27 educational assistants for special-needs students. If you look at the Limestone District School Board, they are losing approximately \$1 million in funding for special education next year. David Herle's reward could have covered that shortfall for those special education students in Kingston.

My question is for the Deputy Premier: Why is paying a Liberal crony, a Liberal campaign chair, with precious taxpayer dollars more important than investing in children?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Attorney General.

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** Again, I just wanted to talk about what we're doing in this ministry about human trafficking—not just this ministry, but this government, because we all work together.

When they were in power, their budget was—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I will do something about it.

Carry on, please.

1040

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** When they were in government, their budget was \$30 million. In our government, it's \$67 million, and it will continue to increase.

This government is actively working on a long-term, survivor-centred strategy to combat human trafficking, co-led by Minister Naqvi and Minister MacCharles. I

know that the approach will be survivor-centred, responsive to needs on the ground and developed in collaboration with other levels of government—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. Stop the clock. A reminder to everyone, but in particular this minister, that when I stand, you sit.

Final supplementary.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Back to the Deputy Premier, but let me say, first of all, that answer wasn't even remotely close to the question—not even remotely.

My question is, after being forced to cut \$8 million, the Royal Victoria hospital—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. Come to order.

Please carry on.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** After being forced to cut \$8 million, the Royal Victoria hospital was given a paltry \$500,000 in new funding this year. Yet we know that Liberal partisan hack David Herle received nearly double that.

The cost to operate a hospital bed can be nearly \$300,000 a year. The cash the Liberal pollster received could have covered several beds that you closed at Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital.

So the question to the Deputy Premier is very clear: Do you think it's appropriate that the Premier took taxpayer dollars and gave them to their Liberal campaign help? It's about abusing taxpayer dollars. Is that right? How can you justify that?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Attorney General.

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** I think if the member opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, is suggesting that government ought not do public opinion polling, I beg to differ. I think it's important that the government of the day do public opinion research, because it's about listening to people. It's about understanding what issues are important to people.

All public opinion research conducted by the government of Ontario is procured through a fair and transparent, competitive process. Every company must be a qualified bidder, a vendor of record, and compete for a project against no less than five competitors.

The final decision about which vendor is best suited for a project is made by a committee of at least three non-partisan public servants. That is the process that we follow, and that is the appropriate process to follow.

## ENERGY POLICIES

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Every time we question the Premier about her irresponsible plan to phase out natural gas and cost Ontario families \$3,000 more a year, she says, "Don't

worry. We're actually expanding." Now, this morning, it's net-zero buildings by 2030. The fastest way to get to net zero: remove natural gas.

Today, we received two letters addressed to the cabinet and the Premier about the Premier's hidden agenda. The first one is from Union Gas president Steve Baker. It says, "Without positive certainty about the long-term role of natural gas in Ontario, we will need to re-evaluate our ... proposed natural gas community expansion."

Speaker, how does the Deputy Premier or this government plan on expanding natural gas without having Union Gas on board?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** On this side of the House, we are committed to taking action when it comes to climate change. We are all paying the price in higher insurance rates. I think everyone on this side of the House is committed to taking action.

On your side of the House, you think that putting a little bit of green in the logo is enough to satisfy climate change.

We are taking action. Let me say one more time that we are not forcing anyone off natural gas. We are committed to expanding natural gas to parts of the province where there is not now access to natural gas—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I've asked for order twice. The member from—

**Mr. Randy Hillier:** Lanark.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** —Lanark. The member from Lanark, I'm glad you're listening to me now.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Time is up for the question.

Supplementary?

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** Back to the Deputy Premier: Here is what the Deputy Premier doesn't seem to understand. Until the government answers the question—will they change the building code to phase out natural gas?—businesses and families will plan for the worst. Families in Kincardine will have to pay \$3,000 a year just to heat their homes because they won't get the access they were promised. Businesses in Sault Ste. Marie and St. Catharines are facing an uncertain future because of this Premier's hidden agenda.

Speaker, the Liberals have not spent a single dollar on natural gas expansion, and now Union Gas won't invest. To the Deputy Premier: Will she guarantee that they will not change the building code to phase out natural gas? Yes or no?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** The Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

**Hon. Glen R. Murray:** First off, again, we are not eliminating natural gas. And our partners, if you look at the leadership of companies like Enbridge and Gaz Métropolitain, are working on net-zero buildings, of which natural gas is major part. Minister of Housing McMeekin—we were in a net-zero building that uses

natural gas. I'm sorry that they're not more literate about the technology.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Renfrew asked the question; therefore, I'm surprised he is not listening to the answer. Come to order, please.

Carry on.

**Hon. Glen R. Murray:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Our plan costs \$13 a month. Their plan costs \$107 a month because they won't wink to other jurisdictions, and they have no money to help people out—no money to help people retrofit their homes. What they're giving Ontarians is nada, nothing. They have no serious plan, but they have a way to jack up profits.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** The minister seems to think that all this money they're going to give out just comes out of the sky.

Speaker, the second letter we received was from the president of Can Art Aluminum. They employ 350 people here in Ontario and are expanding in Lakeshore to employ another 86, but they rely on natural gas to operate their business. Without an assurance that natural gas will have a place in Ontario for decades to come, they will have no choice but to look to expand in the United States, with the real possibility of moving all their business there.

They need the Deputy Premier to categorically, and without reservation, state that they have long-term access to natural gas. Deputy Premier, will they have access to natural gas for decades to come, or should they tell their 486 employees here in Ontario to pack their bags?

**Hon. Glen R. Murray:** That's an easy question: Yes, period. We are working across sectors on all kinds of exciting new technologies offered by Sifton in London and Royalpark Homes in Barrie, who are building net-zero buildings, including those with natural gas. Nova Corp.: hundreds of millions of dollars in investment to do some of the most advanced cogen, low-carbon work. They just won a minister's excellence award with natural gas.

I am sorry that the only plan they can come up with is to take \$107 million from every Ontario family, cut every program for EVs, leave working families with no help to retrofit their buildings and cancel all the social housing retrofit programs. They will net-zero and disable Ontario's working families. That's what they give them.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. Be seated, please.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Come to order.

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** Ricardo Montalbán for Premier.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Don't risk it. New question.

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## HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My question is for the Deputy Premier. Across Ontario, hospital beds are being closed, nurses are being fired and wait times are increasing. But instead of properly funding hospitals, in 2014 and the first 10 months of 2015, the Liberals spent over \$2.2 million on health care polling.

Why is the priority on polling and not on patients?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** I'm proud of the investments that we're making in our health care system—

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** A billion dollars.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** A billion dollars was added to the budget this fiscal year, \$345 million added specifically to our hospitals.

But I have to say, Mr. Speaker, it's interesting that the leader of the third party purports to care so deeply about our health care system. She was in North Bay, as we know, the past weekend, and she was commenting about the state of that hospital, that brand new hospital which employs over 2,000 individuals and is getting outcomes which are better, in most cases, than across the country.

Yet, she spoke about that hospital and she did it from an OPSEU office. She didn't even take the time or bother to visit the hospital or speak to the leader of the hospital about her concerns, and this is what we're seeing. We're seeing this as a trend that's emerging, these fly-by smears where she tries to destabilize the health care system in a community that she visits.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** This minister is doing enough to destabilize the health care in this province and in this particular community, much better than anybody else can destabilize health care. The minister is doing quite a good job himself.

Over the last few weeks, I have met with many, many people, in fact, across Ontario, in all kinds of offices and in all kinds of hospitals. Over and over they tell me that the health of their families is a top concern. That means that hospitals need funding that keeps up with inflation and keeps up with the growing population.

Does this Premier, Deputy Premier, or Minister of Health—does this Liberal government need \$2.2 million in polling to know that when people go to the hospital, they want the care given to them that they need?

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** We know that all parties, when they form government over decades, do polling to establish what the priorities of the population of this province are. In fact, with our Patients First agenda, it's critically important that we find effective ways to reach out to Ontarians, including through polling, to find out specifically what they need.

We want to actually change the health care system so it's not focused on programs or silos or health care professionals. It's focused on what's best for the individual,

what's best for the patient, their caregivers, their families, the communities. So we're looking at things through that different lens. We're making sure that we've got strong representation on all our committees and task forces and advisory councils, outpatients and patient advocates. We're doing polling of patients, of Ontarians, so we can understand their experience and how we can improve the health care system to better serve them.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Speaker, here's a news flash: No matter who you are, no matter where you live, no matter how much money you make, your health and the health of your family members and loved ones is your top priority. That's the bottom line.

Ontario hospitals need more than \$3 billion of critical repair work. Beds are being closed in communities from one end of this province to another. Nurses are being fired in communities across Ontario. There's a silent crisis in health care, and you don't need an opinion poll to tell you that.

Will this Liberal government start properly funding our hospitals so that people can actually get the care that they need?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Minister?

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** If there's a silent crisis, it's the one that's promulgated, that's perpetuated, that is created by the third party as they travel around this province and they meet with interest groups and they don't even meet with hospital officials. They use figures such as 1,400 nurses having lost their jobs last year when all of us know, and I've repeated countless times, that when you look at the independent information provided by the College of Nurses of Ontario—whom I would rather trust with that factual information any day over OPSEU or the Ontario Health Coalition—in fact, 3,000 net new nursing jobs have occurred last year in this province, not the 1,400 losses that they purport, that they claim is the reality in their fantasy world. I'm working hard to make sure that we deal with the facts, that we're making the critical investments, not these drive-by smears that are creating anxiety across this province—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

New question.

## HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My next question is also for the Deputy Premier. But I have to say, it's important to me with patients, it's important to me with health care providers and it's important to me with executives who operate the hospitals, because that's who has the information in terms of the state of repairs—the terrible state of repairs—of this hospital system here in this province. That is at the feet of this government and this minister.

In the next 20 years, however, more than three million people are expected to move into the GTHA. That's like doubling the size of Toronto. Hospital care is already stretched far too thin, and it's going to have to stretch even more. Why isn't hospital funding keeping up with population growth in the province of Ontario?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** To the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** Mr. Speaker, we are keeping up with the growth in population. The Premier just last fall went to the opening of the brand new Humber River Hospital, a more than \$3-billion investment. There was roughly \$3 billion for the brand new Oakville hospital, which the Premier, alongside myself, was proud to open last fall as well.

We're making investments. We have 35 capital investments either under way or in various stages of planning across the province to make sure that we continue to provide that quality care. We're increasing the budget of the health care ministry, including the hospital line item, each year, unlike the party opposite when they were in government. For the last two years, they cut hospital funding; they cut funding in their health care budget for the final year. Some 4,000 nurses lost their jobs under them.

We're building this province up. We're building the infrastructure and the human resources.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Speaker, all they're building is their own fantasy world. That's not the experience of the people of this province when it comes to health care, when it comes to hospital care.

In fact, more than three million more people are expected to arrive in the GTHA over the next two decades, but hospital care is not keeping up. The only way that works out is if fewer people get care or if everyone gets less care.

Before the Legislature rises, I am asking this Liberal government, the Premier, the Minister of Health and the Deputy Premier to fund hospitals, to actually make the commitment to funding hospitals to keep up with growing costs and population growth. Make that commitment so that we know we have a hospital system that will be there for the people of this province when they need it.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** Mr. Speaker, we are investing in our hospitals—\$12 billion over the next decade in capital investments. We are investing in repairs and maintenance and renovations, increasing that by \$50 million to \$175 million each year.

But that's what I don't understand. If hospitals—which we need to recognize are only part of our health care system; we're investing an additional 5%, or \$250 million this year in home and community care. If hospitals are so important to the third party, why did they vote against our budget, which had such significant allocations—another billion dollars to health care and \$345 million to hospitals alone?

We're seeing the outcomes. We're seeing the positive outcomes. We have among the lowest, if not the lowest,

wait times in all of Canada. We're seeing the outcomes as a result of our transformation towards more quality of care as well.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Oh, we've seen the outcomes, and they are nothing to be proud of, I can tell you that. I can guarantee you that.

Our population is growing and hospital funding is not keeping up. In Scarborough, emergency rooms are already seeing three times more patients than they were built for. Now imagine adding the population of a second city of Toronto into the GTHA.

Will this Liberal government do the right thing and start properly funding hospitals to keep up with the growing costs and the growing population?

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** I would ask the third party to do the right thing and finally support a budget of this government that actually allocates significant billions of dollars to health care—a billion dollars this year alone, \$345 million in hospitals. It's important, and we are investing in hospitals. I referenced 35 hospital investments, capital improvements, either under way in this province right now or in the planning stage.

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We're making those investments, but we're also making investments to keep people in the home and the community: a 5% increase in home and community care; \$85 million for retention and recruitment of nurses, nurse practitioners and allied health care professionals.

I have to say that I'm surprised that, despite the incredible hard work that our health care professionals are doing, the leader of the third party is suggesting somehow that that work isn't yielding positive outcomes.

#### GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING

**Ms. Lisa M. Thompson:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Speaker, I'm sure you remember when the Liberals rewrote Ontario's advertising laws last year. At that time, the Auditor General warned that these changes would remove independent oversight and flood the province with partisan ads to promote the political interests of the Liberal Party.

Last week's climate ad with David Suzuki marks a troubling start. In fact, the Auditor General said that this ad was so partisan that she would have banned it if she still had the power to do so.

Does the Deputy Premier really think it's appropriate for taxpayer-funded ads to feature people like David Suzuki, who have endorsed and actively campaigned for the Liberal Party?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** Climate change, in my opinion, is not a partisan issue. Climate change is something that we are all in together.

Now, I do understand that the party opposite, the PC Party, is in a bit of an identity crisis.

**Mr. John Yakubuski:** He's campaigned for you—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Renfrew, second time.

Please, finish.

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** The PC Party is in a bit of an identity crisis. They are not sure where they stand on this issue, and they certainly are not sure where their leader stands on this issue. When the leader speaks for the caucus, we instantly hear about caucus members saying, "Actually, you're not speaking for me."

On this side of the House, we are committed to addressing climate change. The cost of taking no action is too large. Climate change is not partisan. You can't just put—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. Be seated. The bantering back and forth is going to have to stop—on both sides.

Supplementary?

**Ms. Lisa M. Thompson:** Back to the Deputy Premier: We all remember Dalton McGuinty strolling through Stanley Park with David Suzuki and the endorsement video that followed. The Liberals were forced to pull the video because it violated the Canada Revenue Agency guidelines. But here we are again: The Liberals produced another ad that once again breaks the rules, laid out by the CRA, that specifically prohibit charitable organizations, like David Suzuki's, from engaging in partisan activities. But that didn't stop the Liberals from making Mr. Suzuki the star of an ad so partisan that the Auditor General said that it should be banned.

Are the Liberals really so arrogant that they think they can break the Canada Revenue Agency guidelines?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** Well, I first want to say that, when we came into office, we were one of the only jurisdictions in the world, and remain one of the only jurisdictions in the world, to limit partisan advertising. We were driven to do that because we all remember those ads where Mike Harris attacked teachers. We did not want that to happen again, and it will not happen again. I'm proud that we're one of the few jurisdictions in the world to legislate against partisan ads.

When it comes to David Suzuki, we are very grateful to David Suzuki for participating in this ad and for his advocacy. He was paid his standard fee, according to ACTRA rules, and he has indicated that his fees are going to be donated to the residents of Fort McMurray. I don't know what this member has against David Suzuki supporting the residents of Fort McMurray.

## ELECTORAL REFORM

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** This question is to the Acting Premier. The Premier wrote Ontario's electoral reform bill without any actual consultation, and now we see the results. Yesterday, Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer said that the Liberal legislation would restrict advertising that has nothing to do with elections.

This so-called "activist centre" Premier wrote legislation that would put significant restrictions on parents concerned with autism or people calling for the cleanup of Grassy Narrows, but no restrictions on partisan government ads. This is exactly why a non-partisan panel should have consulted with experts before drafting this legislation.

Will the Acting Premier commit to making significant changes to this Liberal plan?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** Government House leader.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** I don't think that the member opposite really needs a lecture on how the parliamentary process works. I think she's quite aware. She has been a member for some time. When a matter is before a committee, of course the members of the committee have the opportunity to make changes to that particular bill.

In this particular instance, we have—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Carry on, please.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Speaker, in this particular matter, we have taken a very open, transparent and credible process to ensure that Ontarians, during the summer months, have the opportunity to provide their points of view. Yesterday, Ontario's Chief Electoral Officer presented at the committee. He noted that our proposed legislation represents the most significant redesign of Ontario election finance law in more than 40 years. We thank the officer for his testimony yesterday.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** So the process is flawed and the legislation is flawed.

Back to the Acting Premier: In addition to raising significant concerns with how the Premier's office has decided to restrict advertising that may actually have nothing to do with elections, the Chief Electoral Officer said that he was concerned about whether Liberal legislation treats government advertising as political advertising or whether the Liberals are exempting it. This is a legitimate concern.

The Liberals created a loophole for themselves to flood the airwaves with publicly funded self-promotional ads, but they're putting tight limits on non-partisan ads about issues of public concern, like Grassy Narrows, autism therapy or climate change. Will the Premier be using her majority to push through a flawed piece of legislation?

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** It's interesting to hear from the NDP, who refused to engage and participate in the process that resulted in the creation of the legislation because they were more interested to stall the process so they could continue with their \$10,000 private fundraisers, as they continue to do. The NDP needs to come clean.

This is what the Chief Electoral Officer said yesterday. He said that he was supportive of the government decision to refer the bill to the committee immediately for first reading. He remarked, "This provides both the committee and the people who appear before it the

opportunity to consider the legislation from first principles.”

Speaker, we are using the democratic institutions to ensure that the people of Ontario have a voice. It's time—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Finish, please.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** It is time that the NDP stop heckling and start participating in this democratic process and making sure that we reform the election financing rules in this province.

## TREATIES RECOGNITION

**Mr. Lou Rinaldi:** My question is to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** Let's go, Louie.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Excuse me. If we're going to play that game, I'm going to too—highly inappropriate.

Carry on.

**Mr. Lou Rinaldi:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. Last week, we saw the Premier make a historic apology for Ontario's role in the horrible legacy of residential schools. Notably, our government unveiled a new action plan for reconciliation in partnership with indigenous people. I'm proud to see such a strong commitment from our government towards renewing and improving our relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in a respectful way.

I understand that one of our steps toward reconciliation is a commitment to promote a greater public awareness of indigenous histories and rights and the importance of treaty relationships. Can the minister please tell us how the government is working to promote a better understanding of our shared history with indigenous people?

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**Hon. David Zimmer:** I thank the member for that question.

Last week, I had the pleasure of introducing legislation to declare the first week in November as Treaties Recognition Week in Ontario. I was proud to see it pass in all three readings with the unanimous support of all parties.

Treaties such as the Williams Treaties were fundamental in shaping the province as we know it today. Ontario is unique in Canada because of both the numbers and the variety of the treaties, with 46 treaties and land purchases covering most of the province.

That is why we are committed to promoting a broader understanding of their importance and to build a greater awareness of treaty relationships here. Treaties Recognition Week will provide a recurring opportunity for students, teachers and the broader public to engage with each other on the importance of treaties. Treaties are foundational documents.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Lou Rinaldi:** It's great to hear that our government is committed to working to promote a more com-

prehensive understanding of reconciliation and the importance that treaties continue to play in Ontario.

I know that the chief of Alderville First Nation, Chief Jim Bob Marsden, in my riding of Northumberland—Quinte West, is especially pleased to hear that developing broader awareness of the treaty relationship is important for this government. I hope that when we celebrate Treaties Recognition Week in November, Ontarians will take an opportunity to learn more about the important role that treaties played in the history of our province.

Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister, what initiatives will this government take to promote a broader understanding of the treaty relationship during Treaties Recognition Week?

**Hon. David Zimmer:** This legislation is just one part of Ontario's broader strategy to revitalize the treaty relationship in the pursuit of reconciliation. We are committed to promoting a stronger public awareness of treaties, their importance to our shared history, and how they have shaped this province.

That is why we are working with indigenous partners to support learning opportunities on the history of residential schools and the treaty relationship, within the provincial educational curriculum. We are supporting these curriculum initiatives with tools such as the 11,000 First Nations and treaty maps that we have distributed to all schools in Ontario.

When we celebrate Treaties Recognition Week in November, we are all marking another important step on the journey towards reconciliation that we must all take together. It is necessary.

## HYDRO RATES

**Mr. Tim Hudak:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Deputy Premier, I want to tell you for a second about Stanpac. They're a manufacturer in my riding, in Smithville, close to where I live. They make specialty tamper-evident packaging. This is in huge demand. We want to make sure we have safe food packaging, particularly in the States.

So here's the catch: They have a plant in Smithville, which I mentioned. They also have one in Texas. The recent hydro bills in April showed the cost per kilowatt hour in Ontario was 13.7 cents, all in. In Texas, it was 6.9 cents, all in. Sadly, it's more than twice as expensive now in Ontario because of your expensive energy schemes.

When they hear about even more ideas to make life more expensive for consumers and businesses, what should I tell them? I want them to invest in Ontario. You're making it expensive. I'm worried those jobs will go to the United States.

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** The Minister of Energy.

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli:** I appreciate the question from the member. There are some differences across North America, but in terms of industrial electricity prices in North America, we are extremely competitive. We are more competitive than some of our northern US states. The numbers have been verified: The IESO and the On-

tario Chamber of Commerce have looked at the comparables.

I will say that our Jobs and Prosperity Fund is used to help attract companies to Ontario. In some US jurisdictions, they lower the price in order to attract them. If you look at what we're providing from the Jobs and Prosperity Fund and compare it to a number of US jurisdictions, we have much stronger—

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** Why are they leaving?

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli:** Mr. Speaker, they're asking why they're leaving. Ontario is attracting more direct investment than any other jurisdiction in North America.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Simcoe-Grey, please come to order.

Supplementary?

**Mr. Tim Hudak:** What I worry about is that the government's hydro policies are making America great again and not the province of Ontario. It seems to be catching on.

Look, I'll be glad to provide the minister with a copy of the bills. He says that we're extremely competitive. Here's the evidence between the plants in Texas and Ontario where the costs are more than twice as high. This annualizes to \$650,000 a year. I would much rather see that invested in new equipment, creating more good jobs in the province of Ontario.

Then when they hear this latest scheme, where there seems to be a strange, ideological hostility towards natural gas, making life more expensive for Ontario's manufacturers—I mean, it's one thing on top of another. I worry that the last one out is going to turn off the lights, Minister.

How about this: Why don't we make life more affordable for Ontarians and make it more attractive for manufacturers, with affordable hydro and natural gas?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated please. Thank you.

Minister?

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli:** I'm sure some US states are pointing to northern Ontario because they have such low industrial electricity rates. I was in Timmins two weeks ago, where we announced some winners under the IEI Program. To finance mines, they're getting 50% off their hydroelectricity in northern Ontario.

If you want some examples of jurisdictions that have higher prices than Ontario, they include New York, Indiana, Wyoming, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia in terms of industrial, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Kansas, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and many more.

## WATER QUALITY

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** Ma question est pour la première ministre par intérim.

Last week, I asked the Premier to explain how it can be acceptable that First Nations people in 90 communities in Ontario still don't have access to clean drink-

ing water. Her answer was that it is unacceptable, she knows there's a problem, and they're working on it.

Today, internationally respected Human Rights Watch, which normally does its work in Sudan and Afghanistan, was actually looking at us. They released a special report on the unacceptable water situation for Ontario's First Nations people.

After 13 years in power, what has this government done to clean the contaminated drinking water of First Nations people in 90 communities?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** To the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

**Hon. David Zimmer:** Thank you for that very important question. The Ontario government is working closely with our federal partners in Ottawa on this clean water issue.

I can tell you that, to date, this commitment has been demonstrated in many ways. For instance, Ontario provides support to First Nations on water issues in some of the following ways:

The Ontario Clean Water Agency provides operations and maintenance services on a fee-for-service basis.

The Walkerton Clean Water Centre provides operator training on cost recovery.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has provided engineering and technical advice to some First Nations and carries out performance reviews of proposals for First Nations systems upon request.

There are seven First Nations included in the Showcasing Water Innovation program in which Ontario is funding innovative, cost-effective solutions for managing drinking water, waste water and stormwater.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** When I started here nine years ago, there were 90 First Nations communities on a boil-water advisory. I stand here today, Speaker, and there are 90 First Nations communities on a boil-water advisory.

In fact, youth from Grassy Narrows had to travel thousands of kilometres to come here last week to plead with this government, once again, to clean up the mercury that's poisoning their river and lake that they depend on. Grassy Narrows, not surprisingly, was featured in this Human Rights Watch report for the world to see. They could also see that mothers have babies with infected skin rashes from the contaminated water. They can't even clean or dress the wounds because the water is not clean.

That's not in a Third World country, Speaker. That's right here, right now, in Ontario, for the world to see. It is a vicious cycle that First Nations people want to end.

My question is simple: Will the Premier do as Human Rights Watch said and fix the drinking water for Attawapiskat, Pikangikum, for Bearskin, for Koocheching, for Kejick Bay, for—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated please. Thank you.

Minister.

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**Hon. David Zimmer:** Speaker, the number of First Nation reserves in Ontario without access to safe drinking water is unacceptable to this government. We are going to work with our federal partners and fix this issue.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I think you anticipated my standing. Thank you.

**Hon. David Zimmer:** Speaker, in furtherance of that commitment, I can tell you that on April 25, Ontario convened a trilateral meeting on drinking water with the federal government and Ontario First Nations. At that trilateral meeting, all parties agreed to advance technical work to improve drinking water on reserves through a trilateral process.

It's important that this problem be dealt with by the federal government, the Ontario government and our indigenous partners. That's why we are committed to this. We all understand that everyone in Ontario has a right to clean drinking water.

#### AGRI-FOOD INDUSTRY

**Ms. Harinder Malhi:** My question is for the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. Minister, Ontario is celebrating Local Food Week this week, from June 6 to June 12. It's a great opportunity to celebrate all the foods and beverages that are grown, produced and made here in Ontario. We have much to celebrate, like farmers' markets across the province that are now able to sell Ontario wines, craft ciders and fruit wines. If the \$1.4 million that the 84 VQA wineries generated at 215 farmers' markets in the last two years is any indication, this will be a popular draw to the markets and help support local economies.

It has already been three years since this House passed the Local Food Act. Can the minister please provide an update on how Ontario's agri-food sector has grown since the Local Food Act was passed?

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** I want to thank the member from Brampton–Springdale for that farm-fresh question. I had the pleasure of touring the member's riding last month to visit some of the food and beverage manufacturers there.

I want to wish everybody in this Legislature, including you, Mr. Speaker, a happy Local Food Week, our third since passing the Local Food Act with all-party support a number of years ago.

The Local Food Act supports our local food strategy to strengthen Ontario's local food sector from the farmstead to the grocery store and everywhere in between, and it's working. In the past two years, our province's agri-food sector has added \$1.3 billion to Ontario's GDP and created 34,000 new jobs. Ontario consumers are becoming more aware of local food options: 81% of them can identify Ontario-grown produce at grocery stores, and eight out of 10 shoppers are likely to purchase fresh, Ontario-grown food.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to say that we're making progress. Good things grow in Ontario.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Harinder Malhi:** Thanks to the minister for his response.

Ontario's agri-food sector supports more than 780,000 jobs across the province. These are jobs found in communities, both urban and rural, from Temiskaming to Simcoe, from Leamington to Peterborough.

Local food champions across the province are helping spread the word that buying local helps grow the economy and jobs. I think of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which in 2015 launched the Six by Sixteen initiative to teach young people how to prepare six locally sourced, healthy meals by the time they are 16 years old, and, of course, Brian Fernandez, who unleashed Ontarians' and Canadians' love for Leamington tomatoes with his Facebook post on French's ketchup.

Yesterday, the government released the 2015-16 Local Food Report. Can the minister inform the House of the contents of the report and whether Ontario is moving forward on its local food goals?

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** I want to thank the member from Brampton–Springdale for her question and her great work to support food processors in her community.

Yesterday, I was at Hawthorne Food and Drink, a Feast ON-certified restaurant here in Toronto, to release this year's Local Food Report. I'm glad the member mentioned the OFA and Mr. Fernandez. They're both featured in the Local Food Report.

This year's report highlights progress we've made since last year. For example, we launched the Local Food Investment Fund as part of the \$6 million in funding for the Greenbelt Fund. Farmers' markets at ONroute locations along the 401 attracted 185,000 visitors last year.

Mr. Speaker, the agri-food sector is poised for growth. For example, in 2017, French's will begin bottling ketchup in Ontario, in East York, the home of my parliamentary assistant, Mr. Potts. We also know that Highbury Canco in Leamington, Ontario is rapidly approaching employment levels that existed at the former Heinz plant.

I encourage all members to read the Local Food Report and to continue promoting the good things that grow in Ontario. As the—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

#### SERVICE FEES

**Mr. Victor Fedeli:** Good morning, Speaker. My question is for the Deputy Premier. Last week, the Financial Accountability Officer confirmed this government is actively withholding documents for political gain.

This morning, he confirmed this government is nickel-and-diming the people of Ontario through skyrocketing service fee increases. The FAO noted that service fees will cost families \$2.74 billion this year, an increase of almost 39% from just 2011.

We know that "service fee" is just another name for "tax." Because of this government, families are already burdened with soaring costs of living, including the highest energy costs in North America.

I ask the Deputy Premier: Why is she intent on making life harder and more unaffordable for Ontario families?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** Speaker, I'd like to thank the Financial Accountability Officer for his commentary.

Service fees are a means of ensuring that the costs of providing a program or service that has an individual benefit are paid by the beneficiary of that program rather than by taxpayers in general. It is cost recovery.

The Auditor General did a report in 2009 and reported that our fees were among the lowest in the country, and that in most cases, the service fee revenue recovers only a part of the associated costs, Speaker. That results in hidden subsidies that direct funding away from government priorities such as health care and education.

As the CROPS report—the Don Drummond report—and the Auditor General's report recommended, Ontario's service fees will be adjusted annually to keep up with inflation. I think that's fair to everyone.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. Supplementary?

**Mr. Victor Fedeli:** Back to the deputy: Your budget increased service fees on nearly everything in the province. However, once again, the FAO noted that this government is refusing to disclose data on the skyrocketing service fees. He even questioned whether the service fee hikes are "legally non-compliant."

If you drive a car, you'll pay more. If you heat your home with gas, you'll pay more. If you camp or fish or hunt, you'll pay more. Rather than making life more affordable for Ontario families, students and seniors, this government is obsessed with finding new revenue to pay for their years of waste, scandal and mismanagement.

I ask the deputy again—

*Laughter.*

**Mr. Victor Fedeli:** It's very funny, isn't it?

I ask the deputy again: Will she end the excessive service fee hikes and tax increases that are making life more affordable for families?

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** To the Minister of Finance.

**Hon. Charles Sousa:** Mr. Speaker, I find the question interesting, because the Auditor General also said that Ontario has the lowest per capita spending, in terms of revenue, in all of Canada. We receive less revenue from the rest of our taxes and service fees than any other province, and yet we're coming to balance—oh, and by the way, we're offering free tuition to our students.

We have not indexed our service fees to inflation. We've taken those things into account to make everyday life easier for Ontario families. The member opposite voted against those very measures to maintain the lowest revenue base of any province. He also voted against free tuition and grants and supports for families. Yet he stands here to ask the question, knowing full well that Ontario is the lowest in all of Canada.

#### YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**Ms. Teresa J. Armstrong:** My question is to the Acting Premier. The communities of Woodstock and Oxford

county are currently battling an ongoing crisis with youth suicide. Since the start of this year, at least five youths under age 20 have committed suicide, and 20 others have attempted suicide.

Today, students at secondary schools in those communities are walking out of their classrooms to send this government a clear message: Stop the suicide crisis before another life is lost.

Will the Acting Premier listen to these students who are walking out of classes in protest this morning and commit to immediately increasing health resources in Woodstock and Oxford county?

1130

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** To the Minister of Children and Youth Services.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** I want to thank the member for this very important question.

My heart goes out to the families affected by youth suicide in Oxford. I think we can all agree that even one child who dies by suicide—one child who attempts suicide—is too many. We will commit to supporting this community. That is part of our broader strategy with respect to our Ontario youth suicide prevention plan.

We have a number of resources that are in place for this community right now. Through the Oxford-Elgin Child and Youth Centre—it's our mental health lead agency for that community—they're delivering services as we speak. They provide crisis support services. That's available 24 hours, seven days a week. They provide other grief services that can be accessed without an appointment. They're providing counselling and therapy services as well as intensive treatment services.

Again, my heart—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. Supplementary?

**Ms. Teresa J. Armstrong:** Back to the Acting Premier: For years, we've been telling this government that London and surrounding communities are facing serious shortages in mental health supports and services. In my riding alone, mental health patients are sleeping on emergency room floors and facing shuttered facilities, over-capacity clinics and group home deaths. It's time your ministry re-evaluates the way you're delivering mental health services in this province.

These students in Woodstock are all so frustrated about the lack of mental health supports that they are walking out of their classrooms this morning. Even our children are clear that this is government is failing them. Not one more death or suicide is acceptable.

Will the Acting Premier commit to immediately providing supports, services and staff to Woodstock and Oxford counties to stop this youth suicide crisis?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. Order, please. Start the clock. Minister.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** Minister of Education.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** I'd like to express our sincere condolences to the families, friends, classmates, teachers—

the entire community, which has been having a very difficult time.

I'd like to thank the member for Oxford, who has been working in a very collaborative way, because he understood that this isn't a political issue. This is an issue where everybody in the community needs to come together. In fact, the three school boards, the community agencies—everybody in the community is working together to support the children.

It may interest you to know that we continue to work with all boards to equip educators with the tools and knowledge that they need to address mental health. In fact, all the school boards have mental health leaders now. The mental health leader in each of the three boards affected is working—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

### SOFTWOOD LUMBER

**Mr. Han Dong:** My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. The forestry sector is extremely important for our province's economy. Forestry generates \$13 billion of economic activity, while providing 150,000 jobs in 260 communities. Trade with the United States is significant to the sector, generating exports valued at close to \$5 billion and accounting for as much as 95% of Ontario's forestry and wood product manufacturing exports.

In October 2015, the almost-decade-long softwood lumber agreements between the United States and Canada expired. A one-year standstill period of free trade will come to an end this October 2016. Any future softwood lumber trade agreements between Canada and the United States will have a significant impact on Ontario's forestry sector.

Can the minister update us on the status of the softwood lumber agreement between Ontario and the United States, and Ontario's position on the negotiations?

**Hon. Bill Mauro:** I want to thank the member for the question.

As he mentioned in his question, the existing deal did expire in October 2015. We're now in a standstill period. There was a hope, of course—a very publicly expressed hope—that within 100 days we would have an agreement. We still do not have that agreement, but discussions are ongoing. Minister Freeland and GAC Canada are doing their best to represent Canada's national interest on this very important issue, especially, I would say, not only for Ontario, but a little more specifically for northern Ontario.

In turn, our ministry is doing everything that we can to represent Ontario's interests on this. It's of great concern to us. As I've mentioned, northern Ontario is very reliant on a very robust and excitable forestry industry, when it comes to softwood lumber specifically.

The industry is rebounding, Speaker. We manage our resources in this province in a very sustainable manner, and we're doing our best to represent the industry on this

file to Minister Freeland as she works on behalf of the national interest.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Han Dong:** I want to thank the minister for that update on the status of the agreement. It is indeed a very important issue for our country. Every time it gets on the news it receives a lot of attention.

This is a particularly important issue for Ontario and I'm very happy to see the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is engaged with it. I understand the federal government has been active on this complex issue and I'm glad to hear that the negotiations may move quickly.

Can the minister tell the members of this House how his ministry is working with industry, other levels of government and other stakeholders to ensure continued access to important US markets for our softwood lumber products?

**Hon. Bill Mauro:** Again, I thank the member for the question. There are a couple of nuances with Ontario's position that we have expressed to Minister Freeland and that we're hoping she's able to carry forward when it comes to this national discussion.

Ontario is a relatively small player when it comes to softwood lumber exports, in terms of the total that we have of the national export into the American market. It's important to note, as I've expressed to her, that in Ontario, 95% of our exports go into the American market. So any change to our proportion of share into the American market nationally, if it's reduced, could have a disproportionate effect on Ontario relative to the other players in the softwood lumber export market.

Other players in Canada have access to other markets. Ontario is pretty much landlocked when it comes to this. Most of our exports go into the US. It's important. As best I'm able, I'm reminding the federal government of this particular nuance when it comes to Ontario's position. Hopefully any reduction in the national total would not necessarily be reflected—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

### BEAR HUNTING

**Mr. Todd Smith:** My question is for the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. Northern Ontario was celebrating the return of the spring bear hunt that was scheduled to start on May 1—that is, until the MNR dropped the ball and botched the hunt. On the eve of the hunt, they restricted the number of form 33s that went to outfitters. Form 33s are non-resident hunter permits that go to recreational tourists from the United States and around the world who come to northern Ontario for the hunt. Some outfitters actually had their numbers cut in half. That's costing them tens of thousands of dollars.

Now, I know when these tourists come they spend tens of thousands of dollars in northern Ontario. This was a big economic development and was celebrated in northern Ontario.

Speaker, the minister has promised the residents of northern Ontario that he's going to fix the problem, but

will he fix it in time for the fall bear hunt? What kind of promises will the minister make to those outfitters in northern Ontario who are expecting some action from his government on this issue?

**Hon. Bill Mauro:** I want to thank the member for the question. I would at this time as well thank the opposition parties for their support when we introduced the five-year pilot on the spring bear hunt. I also want to thank the 84 northern municipalities across Ontario that came forward with very public declarations of their support on this.

I would say that there are a number of outfitters who have not been satisfied with the number of form 33s that they have received. But I would also say that a great number of them have landed in a place that they're very satisfied with, and the economic benefit—that was not the reason for the re-introduction of the hunt—will accrue back to them. There are some—a smaller number, I would say—that are not satisfied.

We've committed, as the 2015 data comes into the ministry, that we'll do our best to ensure, as best we are able, that they are made whole, as they see it, for the fall hunt as well, and that by the beginning of the second year of the pilot next year we will have landed this in a much better place for everyone.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The time for question period is over.

## DEFERRED VOTES

### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS MODERNIZATION ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 SUR LA MODERNISATION DES ÉLECTIONS MUNICIPALES

Deferred vote on the motion for third reading of the following bill:

Bill 181, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and to make complementary amendments to other Acts / Projet de loi 181, Loi modifiant la Loi de 1996 sur les élections municipales et apportant des modifications complémentaires à d'autres lois.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Call in the members. This will be a five-minute bell.

*The division bells rang from 1140 to 1145.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** On Monday, June 6, 2016, Mr. McMeekin moved third reading of Bill 181, An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and to make complementary amendments to other Acts.

All those in favour, please rise one at a time to be recognized by the Clerk.

#### Ayes

Albanese, Laura  
Anderson, Granville  
Armstrong, Teresa J.  
Baker, Yvan  
Ballard, Chris  
Berardinetti, Lorenzo

Gélinas, France  
Gravelle, Michael  
Gretzky, Lisa  
Hatfield, Percy  
Hoggarth, Ann  
Horwath, Andrea

Meilleur, Madeleine  
Milczyn, Peter Z.  
Miller, Paul  
Moridi, Reza  
Murray, Glen R.  
Naidoo-Harris, Indira

Bisson, Gilles  
Bradley, James J.  
Chan, Michael  
Chiarelli, Bob  
Colle, Mike  
Coteau, Michael  
Crack, Grant  
Damerla, Dipika  
Delaney, Bob  
Dhillon, Vic  
Dickson, Joe  
Dong, Han  
Fife, Catherine  
Flynn, Kevin Daniel  
Fraser, John  
French, Jennifer K.  
Gates, Wayne

Hoskins, Eric  
Hunter, Mitzie  
Jaczek, Helena  
Kiwala, Sophie  
Kwinter, Monte  
Lalonde, Marie-France  
Leal, Jeff  
MacCharles, Tracy  
Malhi, Harinder  
Mangat, Amrit  
Mantha, Michael  
Martins, Cristina  
Matthews, Deborah  
Mauro, Bill  
McGarry, Kathryn  
McMahon, Eleanor  
McMeekin, Ted

Naqvi, Yasir  
Natyshak, Taras  
Orazietti, David  
Potts, Arthur  
Rinaldi, Lou  
Sandals, Liz  
Sattler, Peggy  
Sousa, Charles  
Tabuns, Peter  
Takhar, Harinder S.  
Taylor, Monique  
Thibeault, Glenn  
Vanthof, John  
Vernile, Daiene  
Wong, Soo  
Wynne, Kathleen O.  
Zimmer, David

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** All those opposed, please rise one at a time to be recognized by the Clerk.

#### Nays

Arnott, Ted  
Bailey, Robert  
Barrett, Toby  
Coe, Lorne  
Fedeli, Victor  
Hardeman, Ernie  
Harris, Michael  
Hillier, Randy

Hudak, Tim  
Jones, Sylvia  
MacLaren, Jack  
MacLeod, Lisa  
Martow, Gila  
McDonell, Jim  
Miller, Norm  
Murro, Julia

Nicholls, Rick  
Scott, Laurie  
Smith, Todd  
Thompson, Lisa M.  
Wilson, Jim  
Yakabuski, John  
Yurek, Jeff

**The Clerk of the Assembly (Ms. Deborah Deller):** The ayes are 69; the nays are 23.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I declare the motion carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

### ALTERNATIVE FINANCIAL SERVICES STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT DES LOIS CONCERNANT LES SERVICES FINANCIERS DE RECHANGE

Deferred vote on the motion for second reading of the following bill:

Bill 156, An Act to amend various Acts with respect to financial services / Projet de loi 156, Loi modifiant diverses lois concernant les services financiers.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Call in the members. This will be a five-minute bell.

*The division bells rang from 1149 to 1150.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** On April 14, 2016, Mr. Orazietti moved second reading of Bill 156, An Act to amend various Acts with respect to financial services.

All those in favour, please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

#### Ayes

Albanese, Laura  
Anderson, Granville  
Armstrong, Teresa J.  
Baker, Yvan  
Ballard, Chris  
Berardinetti, Lorenzo

Gélinas, France  
Gravelle, Michael  
Gretzky, Lisa  
Hatfield, Percy  
Hoggarth, Ann  
Horwath, Andrea

Meilleur, Madeleine  
Milczyn, Peter Z.  
Miller, Paul  
Moridi, Reza  
Murray, Glen R.  
Naidoo-Harris, Indira

Bisson, Gilles  
 Bradley, James J.  
 Chan, Michael  
 Chiarelli, Bob  
 Colle, Mike  
 Coteau, Michael  
 Crack, Grant  
 Damerla, Dipika  
 Delaney, Bob  
 Dhillion, Vic  
 Dickson, Joe  
 Dong, Han  
 Fife, Catherine  
 Flynn, Kevin Daniel  
 Fraser, John  
 French, Jennifer K.  
 Gates, Wayne

Hoskins, Eric  
 Hunter, Mitzie  
 Jaczek, Helena  
 Kiwala, Sophie  
 Kwinter, Monte  
 Lalonde, Marie-France  
 Leal, Jeff  
 MacCharles, Tracy  
 Malhi, Harinder  
 Mangat, Amrit  
 Mantha, Michael  
 Martins, Cristina  
 Matthews, Deborah  
 Mauro, Bill  
 McGarry, Kathryn  
 McMahon, Eleanor  
 McMeekin, Ted

Naqvi, Yasir  
 Natyshak, Taras  
 Oraziotti, David  
 Potts, Arthur  
 Rinaldi, Lou  
 Sandals, Liz  
 Sattler, Peggy  
 Sousa, Charles  
 Tabuns, Peter  
 Takhar, Harinder S.  
 Taylor, Monique  
 Thibeault, Glenn  
 Vanthof, John  
 Vernile, Daiene  
 Wong, Soo  
 Wynne, Kathleen O.  
 Zimmer, David

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** All those opposed, please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

#### Nays

Amott, Ted  
 Bailey, Robert  
 Barrett, Toby  
 Coe, Lorne  
 Fedeli, Victor  
 Hardeman, Ernie  
 Harris, Michael  
 Hillier, Randy

Hudak, Tim  
 Jones, Sylvia  
 MacLaren, Jack  
 MacLeod, Lisa  
 Martow, Gila  
 McDonnell, Jim  
 Miller, Norm  
 Munro, Julia

Nicholls, Rick  
 Scott, Laurie  
 Smith, Todd  
 Thompson, Lisa M.  
 Wilson, Jim  
 Yakabuski, John  
 Yurek, Jeff

**The Clerk of the Assembly (Ms. Deborah Deller):** The ayes are 69; the nays are 23.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I declare the motion carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Shall the bill be ordered for third reading? Minister.

**Hon. David Oraziotti:** I ask that the bill be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** So ordered.

#### CORRECTION OF RECORD

**Mr. Victor Fedeli:** Point of order, Speaker: I'd like to correct my record. In my supplementary question, I commented about making life more "affordable." Clearly, I meant "unaffordable."

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** All members have the right to correct their record. Thank you very much. That's a point of order.

There are no further deferred votes. This House stands recessed until 3 p.m.

*The House recessed from 1153 to 1500.*

#### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** Today we'll be discussing Rowan's Law. I have a number of people here from Ottawa, including Gordon and Kathleen Stringer and many from the Barrhaven Scottish rugby club and many other organizations. I'll introduce them more properly as I speak, but I wanted to say a very hearty welcome to them to the assembly today.

**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** It's my pleasure to welcome Dr. Bob Phillips, Trina Moyan, Shannon Neufeldt, Shadrak Gobert, Diane Meredith and Reg McQuaid here, connected with Kairos.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Welcome. Glad you're with us.

**Mr. Victor Fedeli:** I would like to introduce two people, my executive assistants: first, my outgoing executive assistant, Clint Thomas, who has been with me for quite a while, and my incoming executive assistant, Rahul Bedi.

#### WEARING OF JERSEYS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Nepean-Carleton on a point of order.

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** I'm seeking unanimous consent in order that myself and other members of the Barrhaven Scottish rugby club can wear our jerseys during the debate on Rowan's Law.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Nepean-Carleton is seeking unanimous consent to wear rugby jerseys during the discussion. Do we agree? Agreed.

#### DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Simcoe-Grey is presenting a point of privilege.

**Mr. Jim Wilson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do want to present a point of privilege. In accordance with standing order 21(c), I wrote to you providing the appropriate notice in bringing this matter to your attention at my first available opportunity.

My contention is that there has been a premature disclosure of documents in relation to Ontario's climate change action plan that members in this House should have had access to before the media.

This morning, on Tuesday, June 7, 2016, I read in the online version of the Toronto Star an article titled, "Revealed: Ontario's 'Climate Change Action Plan,'" written by Robert Benzie. The article states that there are "28 key measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 'Ontario's Five Year Climate Action Plan 2016-2020'" and that the "85-page plan" is "to be introduced Wednesday in Toronto." This is not a case of journalistic speculation; the article goes into detail that would only be possible if the author had received a copy of the action plan.

In that case, I would point out that subsection 7(6) of Bill 172, the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act, 2016, states: "The minister shall, before January 1, 2017, lay the action plan before the assembly and make it available to the public on a website of the government or in such other manner as may be prescribed by the regulations." It is clear, Mr. Speaker, that the action plan should have been provided to members of the House before the media, as enshrined in the legislation passed in this current parliamentary session.

There is significant precedent that has found *prima facie* breaches in regard to documents being given to the media before members of the Legislature. On March 15, 2001, Speaker Milliken ruled on a question of privilege regarding an incident where the media was briefed on a justice bill, Bill C-15, before members of Parliament. The Speaker indicated that there were two important issues in that case: the matter of the embargoed briefing to the media and the issue of members' access to information required to fulfill their duties.

In his ruling, the Speaker said: "In preparing legislation, the government may wish to hold extensive consultations and such consultations may be held entirely at the government's discretion. However, with respect to material to be placed before Parliament, the House must take precedence.... The convention of the confidentiality of bills on notice is necessary, not only so that members themselves may be well informed, but also because of the pre-eminent role which the House plays and must play in the legislative affairs of the nation. To deny ... information concerning business that is about to come before the House, while at the same time providing information to media that will likely be questioning members about that business, is a situation that the Chair cannot condone."

While in this instance there was not an embargoed briefing for all media, I would contest that it is similar to giving a copy of the action plan to an individual member of the press gallery.

Furthermore, on October 4, 2010, Speaker Milliken noted, "It is indisputable that it is a well-established practice and accepted convention that this House has the right of first access to the text of bills that it will consider." While the climate change action plan is not legislation in the same sense that the rulings regarding bills C-14 and C-15 were, it's one of the most significant changes this government has undertaken. It was enshrined in legislation that the plan was to be tabled in the House. I see no difference in the tabling of this action plan than as if legislation were forthcoming. Furthermore, it will lead to wide-sweeping changes, future legislation and significant debate in the Legislature and during oral questions.

Most recently, I would point to the precedent set by Speaker Regan on April 19, 2016. When ruling on the issue of a premature disclosure of documents, he said, "Due to its pre-eminent role in the legislative process, the House cannot allow precise legislative information to be distributed to others before it has been made accessible to all members. Previous Speakers have regularly upheld not only this fundamental right, but also expectation, of the House."

Joseph Maingot's *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada* is very quick to establish what we understand—or at least what the authorities have told us—represents contempt in the Canadian parliamentary tradition. On page 235 of the second edition of Maingot's *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada*, it reads, "Contempt is more aptly described as an offence against the authority and the dignity of the House."

This House rightfully deserved to have the climate change action plan laid before it, and the members should not have had to read the details of the plan in the *Toronto Star*. That's my submission, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Timmins–James Bay on the same point of order.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** On the same point of order, in regard to the contempt and privilege points that my colleague has raised—I don't want to be long, but I just want to make the following point. The government, by way of its own actions, introduced Bill 172, which was voted on in this House. In that particular bill, the government sets out a number of requirements that need to be followed by way of law, and one of those is under section 5 of the bill. It says, "The minister shall, before January 1, 2017, lay the action plan before the assembly and make it available to the public on a website of the government or in such other manner as may be prescribed by the regulations." As far as I know, at this point there are no regulations, so I guess we'll have to rely on that particular section of the bill.

The point is, if you read that—and I think what most members understood, when we voted on this particular bill, is that the government, in regard to its climate change plan, would table it in the House and they would post it on a website. That, I think, is what most members understood. I think that's what all members understood when it came to what it is that we're going to do.

Instead, as the member pointed out—I'm not going to belittle the point—they woke up to find out that, in fact, parts of the plan, in quite a bit of detail, were released to the media. That's contrary to what the government themselves declared that they wanted in the act, which all of these members then voted for. And the bill did pass in this House.

I'm not going to get into reading everything that's in Beauchesne, O'Brien and Bosc and all that, because I'd be here way too long, but I do want to make the following point. As you know, Speaker, not all issues of contempt are a breach of privilege, but I think there is an argument to be made on contempt here, because if you look at what we say when it comes to contempt, we say, "The House of Commons enjoys very wide latitude in maintaining its dignity and authority through the exercise of its contempt power. In other words, the House may consider any misconduct to be contempt and may deal with it accordingly." And it goes on into some details.

The relevant part, I think—and I just want to end on this—is, if you look at page 83, one of the bullet points, five from the bottom, says that contempt can be described as "deliberately altering, suppressing, concealing or destroying a paper required to be produced for the House or a committee."

1510

In this case, documents were suppressed. They were given to the media before they were actually tabled in this House. Therefore, I would support what the member, in fact, rises on in regard to the issue of contempt, and ask you to look at this in the light of what the govern-

ment intended to do with section 5 of the bill and what they did as far as an action.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Government House leader on the same point.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Thank you very much, Speaker. Thank you for acknowledging me. I do rise to respond to the point of privilege presented by the member from Simcoe–Grey, regarding an article published by the Toronto Star this morning concerning the government's climate change action plan.

From the outset, I respectfully submit that the facts presented by the member from Simcoe–Grey do not warrant a *prima facie* finding of contempt. Speaker Peters of the this House, in 2010, cited Joseph Maingot in the second edition of *Parliamentary Privilege in Canada*, which states, “There must be some act that improperly interferes with the member’s rights.... The interference, however, must not only obstruct the member in his capacity as a member, it must obstruct or allege to obstruct the member in his parliamentary work.”

The question before the House, therefore, is whether members have an entitlement to the action plan in advance of, and to the exclusion of, others, and if so, whether the rights of members were obstructed such that they were unable to conduct their parliamentary work. I submit that the answer to both of these questions is no.

In making this case, the member for Simcoe–Grey has cited subsection 7(6) of An Act respecting greenhouse gas, 2016. It states—and I quote, as has been done by other members: “The minister shall, before January 1, 2017, lay the action plan before the assembly and make it available to the public on a website of the government or in such other manner as may be prescribed by the regulations.”

A determination of whether information printed in the Toronto Star is contempt, in this case, requires a conclusion that, in statute, the assembly is to be the sole or first recipient of the plan. This would require an interpretation of the act, an exercise in which this House cannot engage, as you know, Speaker, and as also noted in the 2010 ruling of Speaker Peters and the 1997 ruling of Speaker Stockwell, who adopted the 1989 ruling of Speaker Fraser of the Canadian House of Commons.

Nonetheless, should the House elect to interpret the act, it is my submission that it is not, as submitted by the member for Simcoe–Grey, “clear that this action plan should have been provided to the members of the House before the media, as enshrined in the legislation.”

First, the action plan is not legislation. It is part of a regulatory scheme duly undertaken by the government of Ontario. The member is conflating bills and the inherent precedence of the assembly in being the first to see legislation with a plan. While the member is correct that such a plan may lead to significant changes in future legislation, its possible future impact does not make it legislation yet to be tabled. In that sense, Speaker, the plan puts no imposition on members’ parliamentary duties, and therefore a media report about it cannot be said to obstruct the members from doing their jobs.

While the member for Simcoe–Grey has cited strong authority for the priority of honourable members to be the first recipients of legislation, I respectfully submit that the action plan is not legislation and is, therefore, not caught under the precedents of parliamentary law and convention.

In particular, I note that, in the April 2016 ruling by Speaker Regan, he referred to the “pre-eminent role” of legislative information. In this case, Speaker, like the cases of contempt surrounding the sharing of Bill C-15 in 2001 and Bill C-14 in 2010, both rulings of Commons Speaker Milliken, the Speaker was dealing with the premature disclosure of then yet-to-be-tabled assisted dying legislation. I quote Speaker Regan here:

“As honourable members know, one of my most important responsibilities as Speaker is to safeguard the rights and privileges of members, individually and collectively. Central to the matter before us today is the fact that, due to its pre-eminent role in the legislative process, the House cannot allow precise legislative information to be distributed to others before it has been made accessible to all members. Previous Speakers have regularly upheld not only this fundamental right, but also expectation, of the House.

“On October 4, 2010, on page 4711 of the House of Commons Debates, Speaker Milliken noted:

“It is indisputable that it is a well-established practice and accepted convention that this House has the right of first access to the text of bills that it will consider.”

Therefore, Speaker, it is the text of bills that is the “legislative information” to which Speaker Regan referred in his ruling.

The climate change action plan is not legislative information but a legislated obligation on the minister. That distinction is imperative and substantiates that there be no *prima facie* finding of contempt.

Furthermore, the legislation is clear about strictly the following with respect to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario: (1) the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change is obliged to lay the action plan before the assembly; and (2) they shall do so before January 1, 2017. It is important to note that this is the deadline by which the minister must formally submit to the assembly the action plan. The minister may do so before January 1, 2017. This is also the deadline by which the minister must make the action plan public. The provision requiring tabling of the action plan in the House and posting it online is a matter of transparency and accountability, which are foundational pillars of any government.

There can be no assumption as to the priority of this House in receiving this plan before the public, especially since the legislation is clear that the deadline is the same for both the assembly and the general public to receive the information.

Indeed, there is no reason to believe that the assembly must be the first recipient of the plan. It would be inappropriate for the House to assert a privilege of precedence in receiving documents without any clear intention.

I note that this House has, from time to time, enshrined certain rights in legislation to the exclusion of

other entities. Enabling legislations of independent officers require reports to be submitted to you, Speaker, and laid before the assembly and to no other entity.

I contrast the action plan to reports of an independent officer, such as the Auditor General, whose reports and public accounts must be submitted only to the assembly of the Speaker—under subsection 108(h) are deemed to be immediately referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for the committee for its observations, opinions and recommendations.

Speaker, there is simply no case to be made that the alleged contents of the climate change action plan appearing in a newspaper is the same as legislation and legislative information reported on by the media.

The plan is not a bill. It imposes no duties or obligations on our honourable members above those of Ontarians generally, nor does it go to any standing duties or privileges they duly hold.

Speaker, in conclusion, I seek the opportunity to make my submissions in writing, in the furtherance of your deliberations.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Simcoe–Grey on the same order.

**Mr. Jim Wilson:** Just a short point in rebuttal: Because of the politics around the issue at the time, I didn't put it in my letter to you today, Speaker, or my oral submission in the House today, but I would remind people that the so-called Magna budget—it was a budget. It was a speech. It contained policy changes of the government not nearly as significant as the climate change action plan.

*Interjections.*

**Mr. Jim Wilson:** While some would argue the other way, I'll finish my submission.

To the honourable House leader's point that it's not legislation we're talking about today: We weren't talking about legislation back then either. We were talking about a budget speech that we were scolded about. I don't have the quotes in front of me, but Speaker Carr had some pretty powerful language around that point of privilege, and I'd ask you to look at that material, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for Timmins–James Bay, in a small return.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Very, very small. I'd just remind the government House leader: I appreciate his argument, but to argue that the climate change plan is not legislation is really not giving this—the reality is, Bill 172 sets out that the climate change plan needs to be tabled in this House. The climate change plan is what gives life to Bill 172 when it comes to what's affected—the public will be affected by what's inside that climate change plan, and it will be enacted by way of the law. So the climate change plan and Bill 172 are very connected. It is a bill, it is a law, and it is something that will affect the people of this province.

1520

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I want to thank all members who stayed inside of the process for point of privilege, and I appreciate the fact that everyone did stay on that.

I would also like to thank the member from Simcoe–Grey, the member from Timmins–James Bay and the government House leader for their submissions. I take under consideration that written submission is going to be provided. I would request that to be happening as quickly as possible.

I also now will reserve my judgment on this particular point and will return to the House with my decision as soon as possible.

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### ST. JOHN AMBULANCE

**Ms. Laurie Scott:** With over 30 branches across the province, from Sault Ste. Marie, Windsor, Ottawa, Niagara Falls, Kingston, Barrie, Toronto and many more, St. John Ambulance is present in our communities.

Established in Canada in 1883, the first ambulance division was soon formed in London. Since then, St. John Ambulance members have dedicated countless hours to fulfill their mission of enabling Canadians with improved health, safety and quality of life.

In fact, last year alone, St. John Ambulance members contributed over 600,000 community service hours in Ontario. Whether for campus teams, youth programs, concerts, festivals or at the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games, volunteer medical first responders have provided first aid training and emergency response support at 4,400 public events—truly invaluable.

Through their therapy dog program, they help bring comfort to many in times of need. These four-legged, furry friends have helped brighten the days of many university students, hospital patients and seniors.

In commemoration of the national Victims and Survivors of Crime Week, several groups were honoured for their dedication to helping victims of crime. I would like to commend the support dog program for giving victims of child abuse and sexual assault the option of having a highly trained comfort dog.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our province.

### MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

**Ms. Teresa J. Armstrong:** Speaker, I rise today to speak to a vital issue for me, for the people of my riding, London–Fanshawe, and especially for smaller communities like Woodstock in Oxford county, who are challenged by the lack of proper mental health supports in this province.

For years, we've been telling this government that London and surrounding communities are facing serious shortages in mental health supports and services. In my riding alone, mental health patients are sleeping on emergency room floors, and facing shuttered facilities, over-capacity clinics and group home deaths.

Last year, I introduced Bill 95, Improving Mental Health and Addictions Services in Ontario Act, 2015, as a means of implementing the extraordinary work accomplished by the all-party Select Committee on Mental Health and Addictions. Their final report heard from more than 300 groups and individuals from across the province, all calling for greater supports for mental health and addictions programming. Yet this government has let my bill languish in committee while it continues down a path of its own at the expense of people suffering from mental illness, including our children, who took to the streets to demand you listen and provide the supports they need.

Speaker, we can't help but ask what mental health services and supports in Ontario would look like today if this government hadn't blown billions of tax dollars on scandals like Ornge, eHealth and gas plants.

Too many Ontarians are living without proper mental health supports. Now is the time to deliver. Not one more death is acceptable.

#### ALEXANDRE ÉDOUARD KIERZKOWSKI

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** Mr. Speaker, 2016 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Canada's first member of Parliament of Polish heritage, Alexandre Édouard Kierzkowski.

Raised in a patriotic family, Kierzkowski was forced to emigrate from Poland after fighting in the 1830 uprising against Russian rule. Arriving in Canada in 1841, he continued his military career, honourably serving as lieutenant colonel of the Richelieu district and then commander of the 2nd militia battalion of Saint-Hyacinthe.

Kierzkowski was elected in 1867 to our nation's very first Parliament as a Liberal MP. He was an extraordinary individual who helped to build the very foundations of our country.

Next year, as Canadians celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Polish Canadians will be observing the 150th anniversary of the election of Kierzkowski.

Speaker, the legacy of Alexandre Édouard Kierzkowski shows that Polish Canadians have significantly contributed in building our great multicultural nation since Confederation.

As a Polish Canadian myself, I am especially proud of this legacy that continues today. Later this evening, we will celebrate the work and legacy of Alexandre Édouard Kierzkowski with a special exhibition on his life.

I want to thank the Canadian Polish Congress, Toronto district, and the Polish Canadian Business and Professional Association of Windsor for organizing this special reception and exhibition, and I invite all to join us at 6 p.m.

Dziękuję. Merci. Meegwetch. Thank you.

#### ALEXANDRE ÉDOUARD KIERZKOWSKI

**Mr. Jeff Yurek:** I, too, rise today to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Alexandre Édouard Kierzkowski, the first Canadian parliamentarian of Polish

heritage. He was first elected to the House of Commons in the first Parliament at the birth of the Dominion of Canada in 1867. He was a Polish patriot, a civil engineer, a military man and an advocate of a new land credit system.

Kierzkowski was born in 1816 in the duchy region of what was then Prussia, a partitioned territory of today's Republic of Poland. He came from an accomplished military family. He served as an officer of the Polish army and participated in the November Uprising, also known as the Polish-Russian War in 1830-31. Following a defeat, he was forced to flee.

In 1842, he emigrated to the United Province of Canada and worked for the department of public works as a civil engineer. He championed land banks to improve agricultural practice and pressed for reforms in the mortgage system. He also served as a justice of the peace and a lieutenant colonel of the Richelieu district militia.

On July 1, 1867, Canada became a dominion of four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, through Confederation. Later that year, he was elected to a newly formed House of Commons as a member representing the Saint-Hyacinthe riding. He played an important role in politics for Canadians, Polonia and Poland.

Polish Canadians such as Kierzkowski and many others have made significant contributions to the cultural, educational, political and economic fabric of Canada and Ontario.

Being of Polish heritage myself, I am proud to celebrate his legacy, and I am looking forward to tonight joining members of this Legislature and members of Polonia at a reception honouring the 200th anniversary of his birth.

#### ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** I think most of us will know that education on reserves across Ontario leaves a lot to be desired. Our federal government—surprise, surprise—is not in the business of education, and as a result, all of our schools on-reserve are run independently as local education authorities and are funded at about half of what students get in any other community across this province. So we wonder: Why do we get the outcomes that we get out of those schools? Because, quite frankly, the federal government does not support those schools in the same way the province supports schools in communities across Ontario.

That's why I've been consulting for over a year now, along with our caucus, with First Nations to bring a bill forward that would allow First Nations, if they choose, to opt into the provincial school system so that they can have an effect when it comes to education by getting the expertise that the province provides and the level of funding needed that other kids get to make sure that those kids are able to compete on a level playing field.

I am looking forward tomorrow to bringing that bill forward. I know there's going to be some contention with

that because many First Nations are worried about treaty rights and say, "Will this affect my treaty rights?" I'm pleased to say that as a result of the consultation I did last summer, I've put an amendment to the bill that gives a non-derogation clause that ensures that First Nations' treaty rights are not in any way affected.

I look forward to those consultations and for the debate later on this fall where we'll have an opportunity to do something when it comes to really doing reconciliation in this province and providing kids on-reserve with an education that is equal to all other children in this province.

## REFUGEES

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** This past Saturday, I laced up my skates, carried a Canadian flag and joined in welcoming some of the newest members of my community of Cambridge at the World Refugee Day skating party.

Since 2013, June has become a Waterloo region community-wide celebration for refugees, with events held by numerous organizations to recognize World Refugee Day. The skating party at Cambridge Centre mall was a way to celebrate and welcome our new community members from Syria and beyond.

Skaters from the Preston skating club volunteered to help as they encouraged the first-time skaters, children and adults, as they hit the ice for the first time. Many timidly held onto the boards for the first laps but were enjoying skating without help before too long. Hot chocolate, Timbits and much laughter concluded a very enjoyable event in what was truly a new Canadian experience for our new neighbours.

1530

I want to thank Sandra Sydor from Idea Exchange; Alam Mohammed from the Islamic School of Cambridge; YMCA of Cambridge; Cambridge Ice Centre; the United Way; the Preston skating club; Champions Training Centre; and Tim Hortons, all of whom partnered to put on this fantastic event.

My region of Waterloo has a proud history of welcoming refugees and has provided both a safe haven and a fresh start. Families from all parts of the world have made this community their home, and I am very proud that so many in my community have done so much to help them feel truly at home.

## CLINT THOMAS

**Mr. Victor Fedeli:** I want to use this time to say thanks and farewell to a great friend of mine. Clint Thomas has been my executive assistant here at Queen's Park since first being elected in 2011. We met when Clint was news director at Rogers Radio in North Bay. He commanded attention as a respected and authoritative voice. He did his research and was the voice that our community turned to, to understand the important issues. Clint hosted the Mayor's Phone In show, which is where

we really got to know each other, when serving as mayor of the city of North Bay.

He then took his talent to Toronto, where he worked at CP, continuing to hone his many skills. That led him to Queen's Park, where he and I built a real and lasting friendship. Here, he certainly rose to the many challenges, becoming a subject-matter expert on energy and then Ontario's finances.

But more than just business, we have been friends. Patty and I watched as his newborn sons, Asa and Colton, grew into wonderful young boys. Clint and I golfed together, and he has never, ever, let me win. We spent hours driving together, chatting. With Clint, it was always about his beloved sports; for me, not so much.

As Clint moves on, Patty and I wish him all the best. We look forward to the next chapter in his life. Thank you, Clint.

## PORTUGAL DAY

**Mrs. Cristina Martins:** As a proud Portuguese Canadian, I am honoured to rise today to speak about Portugal Day, or, as it is known throughout the Portuguese diaspora, Dia de Portugal, de Camões e das Comunidades Portuguesas.

Portugal Day is celebrated worldwide on June 10, and let me tell you, the celebrations and festivities are in full gear this month throughout Ontario, and in particular in my riding of Davenport, which is home to the largest Portuguese community in Ontario.

The first Portugal Day commemorations in Toronto were organized in 1966. Since then, for the last 50 years-plus, we've been celebrating Portuguese heritage and the community's accomplishments. It is a yearly reminder of the distinguished contributions that Portuguese Canadians have made and continue to make to the social, cultural and economic fabric of our province.

Portuguese Canadians help to create a more vibrant, dynamic and cosmopolitan society—a society that draws strength from the celebration of our different heritages and embraces our common hopes for a better and more prosperous future.

Many Portuguese immigrants came to Canada to seek a better life and, in the process, have made life better for all Canadians. The Portuguese community in Ontario is one of our great success stories as a nation.

I am proud to celebrate the rich history of Luso Canadians in Ontario. I encourage all members of this House to attend the Portugal flag-raising ceremony tomorrow, which will take place at 3 p.m. on the south lawn of Queen's Park.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone about the annual Portugal Day parade, considered the largest Portugal Day parade outside of Portugal and is in its 29th year, organized annually by the Alliance of Portuguese Clubs and Associations.

Obrigado, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Same to you.

## WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES

**Mr. Granville Anderson:** Last Saturday, I was pleased to attend the annual Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event in Bowmanville. This event is especially important because I believe we need to get the message across that violence will not be tolerated in our community or in any community. To prove that point, we are willing to walk a mile in her shoes. Well, by a mile, Speaker, I mean as far as my body would let me in red high heels, but you get the point.

I am proud to support this event as it increases community awareness about issues such as sexual and gender violence. This event also helps to raise funds to support the cost of services provided in the Bethesda House, which is a shelter for abused women and their children in Durham riding.

I will take this moment to thank all of the volunteers who not only work tirelessly to keep this organization going strong but also for their ongoing advocacy on this issue. Not only does this event open up dialogue about sexual assault and gender violence, especially among the men participating in this event; it also allows the community to unite and continue to work together to fight this very important issue.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I thank all members for their statements.

## REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I beg to inform the House that today the Clerk received a report on intended appointments dated June 7, 2016, from the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. Pursuant to standing order 108(f)(9), the report is deemed to be adopted by the House.

*Report deemed adopted.*

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** I beg leave to present a report on Metrolinx—Regional Transportation Planning (Section 4.08, 2014 Annual Report of the Auditor General of Ontario) from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and move the adoption of its recommendations.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Hardeman presents the committee's report and moves the adoption of its recommendations.

Does the member wish to make a short statement?

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** As Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, I am pleased to table the committee's report entitled Metrolinx—Regional Transportation Planning (Section 4.8, 2014 Annual Report of the Auditor General of Ontario).

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the permanent membership of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts: Lisa MacLeod, Vice-Chair; Chris Ballard; John Fraser; Percy Hatfield; Harinder Malhi; Peter Milczyn; Julia Munro; and Lou Rinaldi.

The committee extends its appreciation to officials from the Ministry of Transportation and from Metrolinx for their attendance at the hearings.

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided during the hearings, report writing and deliberations by the Office of the Auditor General, the Clerk of the Committee and staff in legislative research.

With that, I move adjournment of the debate.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Hardeman moves the adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Debate adjourned.*

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** I beg leave to present a report on ServiceOntario (Section 4.09, 2015 Annual Report of the Auditor General of Ontario) from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and move the adoption of its recommendations.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Hardeman presents the committee's report and moves the adoption of the recommendations.

Does the member wish to make a short statement?

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** As Chair of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, I am pleased to table the committee's report today, entitled ServiceOntario (Section 4.09, 2015 Annual Report of the Auditor General of Ontario).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the permanent membership of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts: Lisa MacLeod, Vice-Chair; Chris Ballard; John Fraser; Percy Hatfield; Harinder Malhi; Peter Milczyn; Julia Munro; and Lou Rinaldi.

The committee extends its appreciation to officials from the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services for their attendance at the hearings.

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided during the hearings, report writing and deliberations by the Office of the Auditor General, the Clerk of the Committee and staff in legislative research.

With that, I move adjournment of the debate.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Hardeman moves the adjournment of the debate. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Debate adjourned.*

STANDING COMMITTEE  
ON JUSTICE POLICY

## COMITÉ PERMANENT DE LA JUSTICE

**M. Shafiq Qaadri:** Je demande la permission de déposer un rapport du Comité permanent de la justice, et

je propose son adoption. I beg leave to present a report from the Standing Committee on Justice Policy and move its adoption.

I send it to you via page Nava.

**The Clerk-at-the-Table (Ms. Tonia Grannum):** Your committee begs to report the following bill, as amended:

Bill 149, An Act to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on the jury recommendations made in the inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer / Projet de loi 149, Loi créant un comité consultatif chargé d'examiner les recommandations formulées par le jury à la suite de l'enquête sur le décès de Rowan Stringer.

Your committee begs to report the following bills, without amendment:

Bill 180, An Act to proclaim a Workers Day of Mourning / Projet de loi 180, Loi proclamant un Jour de deuil pour les travailleurs.

Bill 182, An Act to proclaim Ontario Down Syndrome Day / Projet de loi 182, Loi proclamant la Journée ontarienne de la trisomie 21.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed? Carried.

*Report adopted.*

Pursuant to the order of the House dated Monday, May 30, 2016, the bills are ordered for third reading.

1540

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

### HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT (TRAILERS), 2016 LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LE CODE DE LA ROUTE (REMORQUES)

Mr. Norm Miller moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 212, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act with respect to trailers / Projet de loi 212, Loi modifiant le Code de la route en ce qui concerne les remorques.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for a short statement.

**Mr. Norm Miller:** Currently, section 85 of the Highway Traffic Act requires vehicles to display evidence of compliance with certain inspection requirements and performance standards of the vehicles, as prescribed by regulation. Regulation 611, Safety Inspections, of the Revised Regulations of Ontario, 1990, makes the requirement in section 85 of the act applicable to a commercial motor vehicle if the combined gross weight of the vehicle and any trailer it draws exceeds 4,500 kilograms and to certain types of recreational vehicles, motorhomes and house trailers. The bill amends the act to provide that compliance is not required for trailers with a gross

weight, not including the motor vehicle, of 4,500 kilograms or less.

### HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT (CARELESS DRIVING), 2016

### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LE CODE DE LA ROUTE (CONDUITE IMPRUDENTE)

Ms. McMahon moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 213, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act with respect to careless driving causing death or bodily harm / Projet de loi 213, Loi modifiant le Code de la route en ce qui concerne la conduite imprudente causant la mort ou des blessures corporelles.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for a short statement.

**Ms. Eleanor McMahon:** This amends the Highway Traffic Act to increase the penalties for careless driving causing death or bodily harm. The limitation period in respect of careless driving causing death or bodily harm is increased to two years.

## MOTIONS

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** Mr. Speaker, I believe you will find that we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice regarding private members' public business.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The deputy House leader is seeking unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice. Do we agree? Agreed.

Deputy House leader.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I move that, notwithstanding standing order 98(b), the following changes be made to the ballot list: Mr. Kwinter and Mr. Ballard exchange places in order of precedence such that Mr. Kwinter assumes ballot item number 53 and Mr. Ballard assumes ballot item number 50.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Bradley orders that, notwithstanding standing order—

**Interjection:** Dispense.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Dispense? Dispensed.

Agreed? Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

## CONSIDERATION OF BILL 201

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** Speaker, I believe you will find that we have unanimous consent to put forward a

motion without notice regarding the Standing Committee on General Government's consideration of Bill 201.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The deputy House leader is seeking unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice. Do we agree? Agreed.

Deputy House leader.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I move that, notwithstanding the order of the House dated Tuesday, May 31, 2016, the Standing Committee on General Government be authorized to schedule a witness chosen by the official opposition House leader and a witness chosen by the third party House leader at any time within the authorized meeting times of the committee.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Bradley moves that, notwithstanding the order of the House dated Tuesday—

**Interjection:** Dispense.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Dispense?

**Interjection:** No.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** —May 31, 2016, the Standing Committee on General Government be authorized to schedule a witness chosen by the official opposition House leader and a witness chosen by the third party House leader at any time within the authorized meeting times of the committee. Do we agree? I heard a no.

All those in favour, say “aye.”

All those opposed, say “nay.”

The ayes have it. Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** Mr. Speaker, I believe we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice regarding changes to the membership of certain standing committees.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The deputy House leader is seeking unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice. Do we agree?

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** I don't have that one. I didn't hear it; sorry.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I will offer the deputy House leader an opportunity to repeat, as it has not been heard.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice regarding changes to the membership of certain standing committees.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The deputy House leader is seeking unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice. Do we agree? Agreed.

Deputy House leader.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I move that the following changes be made to the membership of the following committees:

That on the Standing Committee on Estimates, Ms. Taylor replaces Mr. Mantha; and

That on the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Mr. Mantha replaces Ms. Taylor.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Bradley moves that the following changes be made to the membership of the following committees:

That on the Standing Committee on Estimates, Ms. Taylor replaces Mr. Mantha; and

That on the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Mr. Mantha replaces Ms. Taylor.

Do we agree? Agreed.

*Motion agreed to.*

#### PETITIONS

##### STRAY CURRENT

**Mr. Rick Nicholls:** “Whereas stray current has adverse effects on animal and human health;

“Whereas the livelihoods of many Ontario livestock farmers including dairy farmers have been jeopardized or completely lost due to stray current issues;

“Whereas the Ontario government should regulate the occurrence of stray current with legislation in order to ensure that all parties involved or affected have a clear process set out to eliminate stray current;

“Whereas the issues of stray current can be addressed through changes in both the policy and practice of the provincially regulated electrical distribution and electrical service industries;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“For the government of Ontario to fully commit to addressing the issues of stray current by promptly calling Bill 161 ... to committee and having the bill proceed promptly to debate at third reading, and then on to receiving royal assent.”

I approve of this petition. I will affix my name and give it to page Julia.

##### CURRICULUM

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I have over 9,000 names collected by Kairos for this petition, which has been certified by the Clerk. It reads as follows:

“Whereas for six years the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) listened to thousands of former students of residential schools and their families testify to the devastating legacy of this national policy of assimilation;

“Whereas the TRC calls upon ‘the federal, provincial and territorial governments, in consultation and collaboration with survivors, aboriginal peoples and educators, to make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, treaties and aboriginal peoples’ historical and contemporary contributions to Canada a mandatory education requirement for kindergarten to grade 12 students’ (CA 62.1); and

"Whereas on July 15, 2015, Canada's Premiers indicated their support for all 94 Truth and Reconciliation Commission calls to action and said they would act on them in their own provinces and territories;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario urge the government of Ontario to fully implement such a curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12."

I fully support this petition, will affix my name to it and ask page Waleed to bring it to the Clerk. Thanks again to the people who brought it.

1550

## ÉDUCATION EN FRANÇAIS

**M. Arthur Potts:** J'ai une pétition en français des francophones de l'Ontario.

« À l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario :

« Étant donné que la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés garantit l'accès à une éducation publique en français;

« Étant donné que plus de 1 000 élèves fréquentent les écoles élémentaires françaises de Toronto–Danforth et Beaches–East York ("le quartier"), la plus importante concentration d'élèves francophones à Toronto, et qu'il n'existe aucune école secondaire française entre le centre, Pickering, et la 401, ce qui force beaucoup d'élèves à voyager deux heures aller-retour;

« Étant donné que plusieurs écoles anglaises du "quartier" sont occupées à moins de 50 %;

« Étant donné que beaucoup d'enfants sont contraints à l'assimilation au système anglais par manque d'écoles secondaires et que l'école élémentaire est insuffisante pour donner une connaissance durable du français;

« Étant donné que le gouvernement de l'Ontario a reconnu, en 2007, la pénurie d'écoles francophones dans le grand Toronto, et que le Commissariat aux services en français cite, en 2011, le "besoin criant d'au moins une école secondaire de langue française dans le secteur est de Toronto";

« Étant donné que le ministère de l'Éducation reconnaît que tous les citoyens sont gagnants lorsque les écoles sont utilisées de manière optimale et qu'à ce jour, il n'a pas amélioré la situation des écoles sous-utilisées;

« Étant donné que les conseils propriétaires ne mettent pas d'école ou de terrain en disponibilité dans "le quartier," que le conseil catholique construit une école à Scarborough mais trop loin pour les familles concernées;

« Nous, soussignés, demandons à l'Assemblée législative :

« Que la ministre de l'Éducation intervienne pour rendre disponible une école de qualité dans les circonscriptions Toronto–Danforth ou Beaches–East York qui, en septembre 2016, accueillera nos enfants, accordant ainsi à nos enfants le même droit qu'aux enfants anglophones. »

I agree with this petition, sign my name to it and send it down with page Katelyn.

## NATURAL GAS

**Mr. Jim McDonell:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas currently 76% of homes in Ontario use natural gas for heat; and

"Whereas natural gas is a clean, reliable and affordable fuel source and its price has been steadily in decline for several years; and

"Whereas under Kathleen Wynne's new plan, all homes and buildings built after 2030 will be barred from using natural gas; and

"Whereas making the switch from natural gas to electric heat will cost an average of \$3,000 extra per year and homeowners will be faced with at least \$4,500" to \$15,000 "in renovation costs; and

"Whereas the government's misguided energy policies have already resulted in unaffordable business and residential energy rates that are forcing jobs out of the province; and

"Whereas the Minister of Energy is on the record recommending Ontarians switch to natural gas to escape exorbitant hydro bills;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To immediately reconsider the plan to ban natural gas heat from Ontario buildings and new construction."

I agree with this and will be passing it on to the page.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** I have 1,100 names. The first one on the list is that of David Suzuki. I'll shorten the petition down in half.

"Whereas the Ojibway Prairie Complex is a five-park system totalling 332 hectares. It represents half of the city of Windsor's remaining natural areas;

"Whereas Ojibway has 160 species at risk"—20% of Ontario's species at risk and 32% of Canada's. "It represents Canada's, and the world's, most endangered ecosystem;....

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To designate this land with provincial importance and prevent any development on or adjacent to this land, so that the land will be protected and so too will the 91 species at risk, including six endangered and 12 threatened species on schedule 1 of the Endangered Species Act."

I agree. I'll sign my name and give it to Nava.

## GOVERNMENT ANTI-RACISM PROGRAMS

**Ms. Daiene Vernile:** This is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas Ontarians are concerned that individual, systemic and cultural racism continues to create unfair outcomes for racial minorities in Ontario;

“Whereas the time has come to remove the social and economic barriers that prevent our province from achieving true equality;

“Whereas in order to accomplish that objective and to tackle racism in all its forms, our government has created the new Anti-Racism Directorate;

“We, the undersigned, acknowledge both our support for the concept behind the Anti-Racism Directorate, and recognize that there is still work to be done to build an inclusive Ontario where everyone, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or cultural background, has an equal opportunity to succeed.

“Therefore, we petition the government to work with key partners, such as businesses, community organizations, educational institutions and the Ontario Human Rights Commission in an effort to create a scope for the Anti-Racism Directorate.

“This petition encourages the directorate to consider initiatives that would increase public education and awareness of racism, and to consider various methods by which a wide anti-racism lens can be applied during the development, implementation and evaluation of government policies, programs and services.”

I agree with this petition. I'll sign my name to it and I will give it to page Daniel.

#### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** This petition is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario. It says, “Nurses Know—Petition for Better Care.” In the interest of brevity, I'm going to skip part of it.

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“Implement a moratorium on RN cuts;

“Commit to restoring hospital base operating funding to at least cover the costs of inflation and population growth;

“Create a fully-funded multi-year health human resources plan to bring Ontario's ratio of registered nurses to population up to the national average;

“Ensure hospitals have enough resources to continue providing safe, quality and integrated care for clinical procedures and stop plans for moving such procedures into private, unaccountable clinics.”

I agree with this petition, Mr. Speaker. I will affix my signature.

#### PRIVATISATION DES BIENS PUBLICS

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** J'ai des pétitions qui me viennent de partout dans le nord de l'Ontario. J'aimerais remercier M. Gilbert Prevost.

« Attendu que la privatisation d'Hydro One est un aller sans retour; et

« Attendu que nous allons perdre des centaines de millions de revenus fiables d'Hydro One pour nos écoles et nos hôpitaux; et

« Attendu que nous allons perdre le plus gros atout économique provincial et le contrôle de notre avenir dans le secteur de l'énergie; et

« Attendu que nous allons payer de plus en plus pour l'électricité, tout comme ce qui est arrivé ailleurs;

« Nous, soussignés, pétitionnons l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario comme suit :

« D'arrêter la vente d'Hydro One et de faire en sorte que les familles de l'Ontario, comme propriétaires d'Hydro One, en bénéficient, maintenant et pour les générations à venir. »

Merci, monsieur le Président. Je vais signer la pétition et la donner à la page Sulin.

#### GO TRANSIT

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** I have a petition here that's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and it comes from my residents of Cambridge.

“Whereas Cambridge, Ontario, is a municipality of over 125,000 people, many of whom commute into the greater Toronto area daily;

“Whereas the current commuting options available for travel between the Waterloo region and the GTA are inefficient and time-consuming, as well as environmentally damaging;

“Whereas the residents of Cambridge and the Waterloo region believe that they would be well-served by commuter rail transit that connects the region to the Milton line, and that this infrastructure would have positive, tangible economic benefits to the province of Ontario;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“Direct crown agency Metrolinx to commission a feasibility study into building a rail line that connects the city of Cambridge to the GO train station in Milton, and to complete this study in a timely manner and communicate the results to the municipal government of Cambridge.”

I agree with the petition, affix my name and give it to page Walced to bring to the table.

#### ÉDUCATION EN FRANÇAIS

**M<sup>me</sup> Gila Martow:** J'ai une pétition pour l'Assemblée législative de l'Ontario.

« Étant donné que la Charte canadienne des droits et libertés garantit l'accès à une éducation publique en français;

« Étant donné que plus de 1 000 élèves fréquentent les écoles élémentaires françaises de Toronto–Danforth et Beaches–East York ... la plus importante concentration d'élèves francophones à Toronto, et qu'il n'existe aucune école secondaire française entre le centre, Pickering, et la 401, ce qui force beaucoup d'élèves à voyager deux heures aller-retour;

« Étant donné que plusieurs écoles anglaises du “quartier” sont occupées à moins de 50 %;

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« Étant donné que beaucoup d'enfants sont contraints à l'assimilation au système anglais par manque d'écoles secondaires et que l'école élémentaire est insuffisante pour donner une connaissance durable du français;

« Étant donné que le gouvernement de l'Ontario a reconnu, en 2007, la pénurie d'écoles francophones dans le grand Toronto, et que le Commissariat aux services en français cite, en 2011, le "besoin criant d'au moins une école secondaire de langue française dans le secteur est de Toronto" :

« Étant donné que le ministère de l'Éducation reconnaît que tous les citoyens sont gagnants lorsque les écoles sont utilisées de manière optimale et qu'à ce jour, il n'a pas amélioré la situation des écoles sous-utilisées;

« Étant donné que les conseils propriétaires ne mettent pas d'école ou de terrain en disponibilité dans "le quartier," que le conseil catholique construit une école à Scarborough mais trop loin pour les familles concernées;

« Nous, soussignés, demandons à l'Assemblée législative :

« Que la ministre de l'Éducation intervienne pour rendre disponible une école de qualité dans les circonscriptions Toronto–Danforth ou Beaches–East York qui, en septembre 2016, accueillera nos enfants, accordant ainsi à nos enfants le même droit qu'aux enfants anglophones. »

Je vais signer mon nom et la donner à page Sahil.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Thank you very much.

Just as a point for everyone in the Legislature: If you have a very long petition, I would encourage you to shorten it. You can, of course, hand in the long version. That just allows for further petitions in the future.

The time for petitions has now expired.

I recognize the deputy House leader, on a point of order.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** Mr. Speaker, I seek permission of the House to revert to motions.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** The deputy House leader is seeking unanimous consent to revert to motions. Agreed? Agreed.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** Mr. Speaker, I believe we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice regarding changes to the membership of certain standing committees.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Is there consent for that? Agreed? Agreed.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I move that the following changes be made to the membership of the following committees:

That on the Standing Committee on Estimates, Mr. Mantha replaces Ms. Taylor; and

That on the Standing Committee on Justice Policy, Ms. Taylor replaces Mr. Mantha.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** The deputy House leader—

**Interjection:** Dispense.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Suspense? Sorry, dispense? We'll hold you in suspense. Dispense? Dispensed.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

#### VISITOR

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** A point of order.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Point of order: I recognize the member from Timmins–James Bay.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** I beg indulgence, because this doesn't happen very often, and you know that I never do this outside of the beginning of the House.

Henry Timmins, who is the grandson of Henry Timmins, brother of Noah Timmins, who founded the city of Timmins, is here with us today to listen to the debate. I just want to welcome him here and say that we love the city you built for us and we're very happy to live there.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** That is not a point of order, but always welcome. We welcome our guests as well.

#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### ONTARIO DOWN SYNDROME

DAY ACT, 2016

##### LOI DE 2016 SUR LA JOURNÉE

ONTARIENNE DE LA TRISOMIE 21

Mr. Dickson moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill 182, An Act to proclaim Ontario Down Syndrome Day / Projet de loi 182, Loi proclamant la Journée ontarienne de la trisomie 21.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Mr. Dickson.

**Mr. Joe Dickson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I get into some of the very important merits of establishing March 21 as Down Syndrome Day, I'd like to acknowledge a couple of people, if I could, through the Chair. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the opposition—the PC and NDP colleagues—for their complete support throughout this process.

Before we proceed any further, I'd also like to thank a couple of people who were very co-operative and very important to our first presentations. They were MPP Dr. Helena Jaczek; my neighbour MPP, Granville Anderson; and MPP Dr. Shafiq Qaadri.

Also, our current Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, Ted McMeekin, for years has been an active player on this file. He's been very thorough throughout it

and he has had a lot of previous experience at a previous ministry on this. I again acknowledge him, as I acknowledge the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Leal, from Peterborough, who was, in the case of Peterborough—although he has been active through councils and MPP legislative positions, he was there to help start the first Peterborough Down syndrome association. He did that in concert with Deb Reid. Mr. Leal did that by bringing forth the first Ontario Trillium Grant and he was very successful in that.

Down syndrome, also known as trisomy 21, is a genetic disorder caused by the presence of all or part of a third copy of chromosome 21. One in every 800 babies born has Down syndrome, universal across racial and gender lines. The parents of the affected individual are typically genetically normal. The extra chromosome occurs by random chance. There are no known behavioural and environmental factors that change that risk and there is no cure for Down syndrome. People with Down syndrome experience varying degrees of intellectual delays and lower muscle tone.

But further, people with Down syndrome have faced discrimination in Ontario and around the world. My wife reminded me that she, as a registered nurse—

**Mr. Shafiq Qaadri:** Donna.

**Mr. Joe Dickson:** Donna is the name. Thank you, Doctor.

She recalled for me how, when she was nursing in the many young years—that for some 50 years or so, people were encouraged to give up their children with Down syndrome. They were not considered part of society. It is worth noting that, half a century ago, people with Down syndrome were denied a right to education, were given inadequate health care and were placed in institutions where the life expectancy was approximately 25 years. My, how society has changed for the better.

Advances in medicine and movements challenging discrimination now see people with Down syndrome living into their sixties and seventies. They are active, contributing citizens in the province of Ontario, attending mainstream schools and learning to read and write alongside their peers. Some adults are even attending college and living independently, with some being gainfully employed.

Though we are on the right path, challenges are still being faced in the Down syndrome community. If they are at the poverty line—ODSP is \$865 per month, or \$11,000 a year, obviously not enough to cover required costs. Also, when it comes to work/employment support through ODSP, it takes too long. School boards themselves do not have special funding, and most families cannot afford a speech pathologist at \$150 an hour, so there are limitations to what families can do.

I'd like to also thank those families who have taken part these past two weeks. They were very active here at the Legislature. First of all, I'd like to mention Jennifer Crowson. You may remember her son, Owen. Jennifer was also here last week for the second reading of this bill, and Jennifer also presented at justice committee last week. Also with her from the Hamilton area is a mother,

Ingrid Muschta. Her son is Alexander. Even grandmother Irene Turpie came with her that day.

I want to mention someone very special to me. My first interview was with Kassy Wright. She's the child of Donna and Bruce Wright, who have two very tall—and I mean tall—boys who help look after their sister. She's a beautiful lady. Like so many young children, she has a puppy, and its name happens to be Tasha. She just graduated this year from Clarington high school, in November. She's a very active learner and protected by the two brothers I mentioned, has many great friends and loves working with children. She has also captured my heart.

**1610**

It is inspiring stories like this which have helped me push this bill forward. The goal is to dispel myths, raise awareness and recognize the contributions of people with Down syndrome such as Kassy and the great communities that they help make.

The very last thing I'll say is that I've heard different mothers and fathers talk about their children with Down syndrome. I've listened to them all. One in particular said to me, "We'll eat macaroni and cheese for the rest of our lives so it will allow for extra money for health care for the protection and care of our special child." Loving care from special parents is something we should never forget. That has helped make March 21 Ontario Down Syndrome Day.

We're already working on down syndrome week in November. We have commenced that process. We have invited—as I did the last time, and I know they're going to participate—the opposition to co-chair this with me.

I appreciate your time and thank you for your flexibility, Mr. Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

**Mr. Randy Pettapiece:** I'm certainly pleased to rise today to participate in the third reading debate of Bill 182, Ontario Down Syndrome Day Act. I would like to recognize the member from Ajax-Pickering for introducing this important bill. I would also like to thank the member from Ajax-Pickering for allowing me to park in my parking spot today. Every once in a while, he brings one of those beautiful cars in that's too big for our parking spots, and if I don't get there first, I have an issue getting in there. So thank you so much for letting me park today.

I have the privilege of serving as critic to the Minister of Community and Social Services on behalf of our caucus. This has allowed me to meet with agencies, families and individuals with disabilities and gain a true understanding of the opportunities and challenges that they face.

This bill, Bill 182, is a simple but important bill. It is going to proclaim March 21 as Ontario Down Syndrome Day. March 21 is significant. It represents the 21st day of the third month, which signifies the triplication of the 21st chromosome. Down syndrome is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement in which a person has

three copies of the 21st chromosome. So just the date alone is an excellent teaching opportunity when we will officially mark March 21 as Ontario Down Syndrome Day. I must also note that March 21 serves as World Down Syndrome Day, so we'll be in good company when we mark this day provincially.

A little background on Down syndrome: Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal condition. Approximately one in 800 babies born in Ontario have Down syndrome.

Central to this debate, people with Down syndrome have faced discrimination in Ontario and around the world. Half a century ago, people with Down syndrome were denied the right to an education, were given inadequate health care, and many were placed in institutions.

We have come a long way. Advances in medicine and societal change towards discrimination have improved the life experiences and expectancy of people with Down syndrome. Children with Down syndrome are attending school alongside their peers. Young adults with Down syndrome are attending post-secondary education, living independently and finding gainful employment. However, there is still much more to be done.

We speak about inclusion and accessibility a lot around here. Just last week, I had the opportunity to recognize National Access Awareness Week, but there are still many barriers in our province. These are not simply limited to physical barriers. Misguided and outdated attitudes about the abilities of individuals with disabilities can result in low expectations, discrimination and exclusion. We owe it to individuals with Down syndrome to ensure that our communities are inclusive and welcoming. I believe that this bill is one step forward in that direction.

Many agencies and individuals in Ontario celebrate World Down Syndrome Day every year. This year, the theme was "My Friends, My Community." To get everyone talking, it was encouraged that everyone wear a lot of socks, specifically three socks for three copies of chromosome 21. The goal is to wear something that people would ask you about so that you could start a conversation about World Down Syndrome Day.

There is a remarkable young woman in the Kincardine area, Amy, who challenged businesses to create fun and unique window displays filled with lots of socks. She had tremendous success and spurred many important conversations about Down syndrome. Now, with this specially marked provincial Down syndrome day, we have the opportunity to create even more awareness. Awareness and understanding are key to inclusiveness, and inclusive communities are ones where we all thrive.

Last week, I was pleased to attend the committee hearings on this bill. We heard from representatives of the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and the Down Syndrome Association of Ontario. We were also lucky enough to have Laura Stremble attend and share what inclusion means to her. Laura is almost 15 years old and spoke about inclusion at her school. She spoke about

her successes in academics, athletics and her volunteer work.

Laura's inclusion has stuck with me and I would like to share it with the House: "I think other students are lucky to have me and others like me in their classes. It teaches them empathy and patience. It is a win-win situation.

"In conclusion, I want you all to realize that most of the time I feel included, but when I don't, that is their loss."

Speaker, it truly is their loss. Laura is an exceptional young woman, and anyone who chooses to alienate someone else is on the losing end of that deal. That said, we cannot allow March 21, Ontario Down Syndrome Day, to be the only time we think about the achievements and needs of individuals with Down syndrome. This is something the government must constantly be aware of and acting on.

For instance, last week, Jennifer Crowson, president of the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, shared the following statement with committee: "We do know that people with Down syndrome have faced and do face discrimination in our province. We know that people with Down syndrome do not always have the same full access to education as their peers. We know that people with intellectual disabilities are sometimes described as having limited academic potential. We know that there is not equity in funding for social and medical research on Down syndrome as there is for other disabilities. We also know that many people with Down syndrome face barriers as they transition into adult life, in achieving full independence and paid employment."

Ms. Crowson went on to say, "I hope that World Down Syndrome Day will signify enhanced awareness and authentic inclusion in all spheres in the lives of individuals with Down syndrome across their lifetime. This day will hopefully bring more recognition to those individuals with Down syndrome, and recognition of those with Down syndrome as individuals with unique strengths and challenges and as individuals who are part of our ever-increasingly neurodiverse social fabric and who are not more different than other people without Down syndrome."

Mr. Speaker, I believe that's why the member opposite introduced this bill. Ontario Down Syndrome Day will give us all the opportunity to learn more about Down syndrome and the lives of people who have it. It will give us the chance to recognize the importance of inclusion and equal opportunities for all. Provincially, Ontario Down Syndrome Day should also serve as a catalyst to discuss areas of improvement, areas which require immediate government action.

First, let's look at the Ontario Disability Support Program. ODSP is known for its complex applications and significant application processing backlogs. Donna Wright, who appeared before the committee during hearings on this bill, said it best when she spoke about her daughter Cassandra's experiences: "The biggest struggle has been the amount of paperwork and knowing

when, what and why to complete it—for example, wills, Henson Trust funding, ODSP, Developmental Services Ontario, etc. There are a great number of times we need to prove that his or her disability is not going away, and times we require doctors' notes to prove he or she still has a disability."

1620

Speaker, I have heard this statement from so many families. It seems to be a message this government is missing. Disabilities don't end at 18 when funding suddenly switches ministries, requiring new applications. Autism doesn't end at five.

Supports need to be in place. They need to remain in place, and they need to be accessible. Forcing this unnecessary red tape burden on families, all so that they can continue supporting their children, is shameful. That is time and resources that could be going into direct care.

Building on to that, let's look at Special Services at Home. The government has made much of the fact that they've eliminated the wait-list for Special Services at Home. However, let's be clear: They've eliminated the 2014 wait-list. Families can receive Special Services at Home funding when their children are under the age of 18, but then that funding comes to an abrupt end. Families must then apply for new funding through the Passport program, which still has wait-lists.

I can't tell you how many families I've worked with in Perth-Wellington who are in desperate situations when faced with this transition. They face a bureaucratic maze and don't know where to turn. Many find out that their funding decreases after age 18, which leaves the children in a precarious position. Their disabilities haven't changed, but their financial ability to pay for programming and care certainly does.

This government has also jeopardized educational opportunities for many children with disabilities. Many children with Down syndrome attend public schools and participate in a mix of academic and locally developed courses. Many have an individual education plan and receive support from an educational assistant in a classroom to maximize their learning potential. Instead of fostering these opportunities, this government's funding has forced many school boards to lay off their valuable educational assistants. For example, my colleague from Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound saw 50 educational assistants removed from the Bluewater District School Board, which has a direct impact on student success.

Ms. Wright detailed the hardships that children with Down syndrome can face:

"Through the school years, the school boards—there's no real funding for speech pathologists in there, and occupational therapists.... There's an ongoing struggle to maintain educational assistants during the school years. They're continually cutting EAs ... so it's an ongoing fight to share.

"From newborn to school age, the average support varies, depending on the region you live in."

This should not be the case, but it's something we all know too well in rural and small-town Ontario.

A few years ago, I introduced a motion calling on the government to re-evaluate policies that negatively affect residents in rural and small-town Ontario. That motion received all-party support. It can be applied to so many issues.

While things like wind turbine policies and energy costs are on top of my mind for us in Perth-Wellington, the rural-urban divide can also be seen in this government's social policies. For example, the government has promised \$8,000 to families whose children have been cut off the list for access to IBI therapy. While that's not nearly enough to cover a year of treatment anywhere, it's particularly harsh in our rural communities. These families have to travel, sometimes hours, to access the services their children need. When you factor in the government's upcoming 4.3-cents-per-litre hike on gas prices, I'm sure you can imagine how little treatment a child could get with \$8,000, factoring in travel costs.

All of this is to say that the services available for individuals with Down syndrome, and individuals of all abilities, should not be determined by where you live. Access to education, medical services and funding should be equal across the board. Clearly, the government has much more to do to make this a reality.

Finally, I must discuss the availability of housing, which is a crisis right now in our province. In 2014, the Auditor General of Ontario found that there were well over 14,000 people waiting for residential services and supports. She determined that at the current rate, it would take 22 years to place everyone who is currently waiting for housing, assuming no one else joins the list. This is a disgrace.

I can't tell you the number of families I have met with who are desperate to find suitable housing and accommodations for their adult children with disabilities. In many cases, these children have lived at home for their entire lives, and their parents have served as caregivers for decades. As the parents age and become unavailable to provide this level of support, they look to the government to provide appropriate housing for their child. It's clear that the government hasn't come through. Many of these families are left to languish on waiting lists.

All of these areas deserve immediate government action. I call on members on the opposite side to limit redundant paperwork and improve the ODSP application process. I stand with families in their call to bridge the transition of funding from childhood to adulthood, and I urge the government to address the crisis in housing. I am very supportive of this bill, and our caucus will be voting in support of it this afternoon.

Next year, on March 21, I look forward to marking Ontario Down Syndrome Day and raising further awareness about Down syndrome. I also look forward to continued conversations such as the one we are having here today. We cannot limit our conversation on areas for improvement to one day a year. This must be an ongoing conversation that is followed by concrete action. This government can absolutely improve services for individuals with Down syndrome.

I would like to close with a quote I heard during committee:

“We believe that people with Down syndrome should be allowed to pursue meaningful lives in their communities. We believe that all aspects of society should accept and include individuals with Down syndrome fully. We believe that new and expectant parents should have access to the latest, most accurate information about having and raising a child with Down syndrome. We believe that people with Down syndrome should not be defined by their disabilities, but rather should be celebrated for their abilities.

“We believe that people with Down syndrome deserve every opportunity for an education that truly meets their needs, a good job that allows them to earn money, quality health care that doesn’t discriminate and a fulfilling social life. Ultimately, we believe that each person with Down syndrome should be honoured as the individual he or she is and for the immeasurable value they bring to the world.

“We believe in the future of all people with Down syndrome and pledge to do everything in our power to ensure that they have the opportunities they so richly deserve.”

I appreciate the opportunity to participate in today’s debate on Bill 182, the Ontario Down Syndrome Day Act. I thank the member from Ajax-Pickering for introducing this bill and spurring our important conversation regarding Down syndrome. I am proud to support this bill to make March 21 Ontario Down Syndrome Day.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

**Miss Monique Taylor:** It’s a privilege to be able to stand today and contribute to the third reading debate of Bill 182, An Act to proclaim Ontario Down Syndrome Day. I want to begin by welcoming some guests whom we have here today from Hamilton. We have Jennifer and her son Owen Crowson, we have Alyson and her son Max Kowalchyk, we have Laura and her son Jeremy Rudolph, and we have, I guess it would be, her dad and Jeremy’s grandpa, Henry Timmins, who has been introduced already. We’re really proud to have you here today to join in this wonderful day of third reading for this bill, because it has definitely been a long time coming.

I want to thank the member from Ajax-Pickering for bringing this bill forward and to congratulate him on getting it to third reading in the Legislature. It’s a bill that is long overdue and, if used correctly, can have a long-lasting impact for those who have Down syndrome and their families. If it does what I know it can do, it will have a lasting impact on us all. That is my hope.

March 21 has been recognized since 2006 as World Down Syndrome Day in many countries and was officially declared as such by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011. The 21st day of the third month was deliberately chosen to signify the uniqueness of the triplication of the 21st chromosome, which causes Down syndrome. It is fitting that we chose the same day to mark the occasion in Ontario. I spoke of the high hopes I

have that this day can deliver—high hopes because I know what can be achieved simply by raising awareness in particular, an awareness that focuses on the ability of people with Down syndrome.

1630

I’ve had the great pleasure to spend time with people with Down syndrome in Hamilton, especially during many different festivities and occasions. Each year I get to take part in the Hamilton Walk for Down Syndrome, a fantastic community event that last year attracted 1,000 walkers and raised over \$80,000 for people with Down syndrome. This year’s walk is coming up on October 2 at Bayfront Park, and I encourage anyone who is watching at home or who is here in the Legislature to come on down and enjoy the fun.

As I have mentioned before in this House, the Fab Five—Ben Martin, David Colantino, Michael Mastragostino, Peter Oddi, Aaron Arnold and myself—have had lots of fun during many different events. They were the ones who were featured on my Christmas card last year that everybody here in the House received.

A few weeks ago, we had Special Olympics Day here at Queen’s Park, and I was delighted that my friend Tim Goodacre made the trip to Queen’s Park along with his parents, Mary and Robert.

A lot of this wouldn’t have been possible 50 years ago, Speaker. Back then, parents of children with Down syndrome were encouraged to put their children in institutions. They were removed from society and never given the chance to thrive. They were denied basic rights. They were denied the right to an education. They were denied the health care that they needed. Fifty per cent of people with Down syndrome have congenital heart disease, but doctors refused to give them operations. The average life expectancy was just 25 years.

I’m glad to say that things have changed a lot since then, Speaker. Nowadays, they get access to health care. They live healthier lives and they are living longer, much older, some older—over the age of 55. It has been a long week, already, Speaker; it’s only Tuesday.

They go to school along with other boys and girls their own age. But we still have a long way to go. That is why I’m so happy that today we have third reading of this bill. It’s great that they’re now included in school, but the reality is that they don’t get the supports that they need. They have an intellectual delay that varies from individual to individual, and we need to be able to make sure that we are tailoring the services to their needs.

Our schools need to be given the resources to adequately serve their needs, but instead, we hear of cutbacks to special education. While it is great that they are living longer, this also means that their parents are getting older and finding it more difficult to look after their older children. The government has to step up to the plate here. These aging parents need help and they are being badly let down.

There is very little done in Canada in terms of research for Down syndrome. Governments simply haven’t seen fit to prioritize this type of research and there continues

to be discrimination towards people with Down syndrome as people fail to appreciate their abilities instead of focusing on their differences. Social exclusion still exists and negative attitudes continue to abound.

But by using this new Ontario's Down Syndrome Day to raise its profile, make people more aware of what it is and expose more people to the abilities and the love that is within each person with Down syndrome, we can change lives, including those of these three little boys that are here with us today.

Jennifer Crowson from Hamilton speaks eloquently about the difference that a bit of knowledge, a bit of awareness can make. Jennifer is the president of the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton and the mother of Owen, who was born with Down syndrome. The members of the Standing Committee on Justice Policy had the privilege of hearing from Jennifer, along with Laura Stremble from Dundas, when they appeared before them last week to consider this bill. Here's some of what Jennifer had to say:

"Four years ago, my life changed forever. My husband and I found out that our youngest son, Owen, was going to be born with Down syndrome. Before he was even born, I was told that there would be many things that my son might not do. I was told that he might not read, he might not write, he might not run and he might not even walk. I was told that my son would have an intellectual delay, which would limit his progress in school and, indeed, his progress in life. I was told that he might also have serious medical health issues.

"What I was not told is that my son Owen would in fact enrich my family's life. I was not told that he would be more like his brothers than different. In fact, he's a lot like his older brothers. I was not told that he would amaze me every day with what he actually can do."

By telling her story, Jennifer shows us that even before birth, there is an emphasis on the negative stereotypes, with little thought given to the abilities of people with Down syndrome.

Jennifer is a strong advocate for people with Down syndrome because she knows that they deserve the same human rights as everyone else in Canada. She appreciates what they have done for people with Down syndrome in Ontario in terms of health, social care and education, but she also knows that so much more needs to be done.

She said this in committee: "We do know that people with Down syndrome have faced and do face discrimination in our province. We know that people with Down syndrome do not always have the same full access to education as their peers. We know that people with intellectual disabilities are sometimes described as having limited academic potential. We know that there is not equity in funding for social and medical research on Down syndrome as there is for other disabilities. We also know that many people with Down syndrome face barriers as they transition into adult life, in achieving full independence and paid employment."

That is why this bill is so important, Speaker. That is why it is right that we recognize Down Syndrome Day in Ontario—an opportunity every year to raise awareness

about the inequities that exist, but perhaps more importantly, an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the abilities and achievements of people with Down syndrome.

Along with Jennifer at committee last week was Laura Stremble, a grade 9 student from Dundas. Laura spoke about the importance of inclusion and the encouragement she received from her EA and her principal for everything that other kids do. She spoke proudly of her achievements: winning science fairs and scripture reading competitions, and competing in rhythmic gymnastics at the Special Olympics. She collected volunteer hours, like everyone else, through the Special Olympics and at her church, where she worked on the gardening committee, development and peace dinners, and worked the plant sales and bazaars.

I say she did like everyone else, but in fact, she collected more hours than anyone else in her class by the end of grade 8. She made the honour roll and she graduated from grade 8 and won the Christian Community Service Award.

Now at high school, Laura continues to achieve. Along with her friends of all abilities, she takes math, science, geography, history, religion, English, gym, drama and art, and maintains a 78% average. Well done, Laura.

She spoke of the importance of inclusion, not just for herself but for others in her class. These are her words: "I think other students are lucky to have me and others like me in their classes. It teaches them empathy and patience. It is a win-win situation."

It certainly is, Speaker. Laura implored the committee to "realize that most of the time I feel included, but when I don't, that is their loss."

The Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton is just one of the many across the province. Our recognition of Down Syndrome Day gives momentum to the fantastic work that they do, whether that be the support they provide for impacted families, the advocacy for services, the outreach to the community or the information-sharing. These important functions enrich our communities and improve the lives of people with Down syndrome.

As I said at the start, it is my hope that this bill will have a very lasting impact on us all. We have come a long way in the last 50 years, and with the right focus on abilities rather than differences, we can achieve a lot more in the years to come.

Congratulations for moving this bill forward, and thank you all for being here today.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

**Ms. Daiene Vernile:** I'm very pleased to join the discussion in the House this afternoon to speak about Bill 182, the Ontario Down Syndrome Day Act, presented by my honourable colleague the member for Ajax-Pickering.

1640

Today, we too often see outdated attitudes surrounding Down syndrome. Too often, these individuals are discriminated against and excluded. Too often, children and adults with Down syndrome have difficulties integrating.

When nearly one in every 800 babies born in Ontario have Down syndrome, they need to feel welcome in our society, not excluded. We've heard how, in the last century, people with Down syndrome were prevented from accessing education. They were given inadequate health care and placed in institutions. Under these conditions, their life expectancy was only about 25 years.

Conditions today have certainly improved, thanks to both social and medical advances. People with Down syndrome are now living well into their sixties and seventies. They are contributing to Ontario as citizens. Children with Down syndrome are attending mainstream schools. Young adults are attending college, and some are gainfully employed and living independently. But we still have a long way to go before we see a truly inclusive society. Bill 182 is a positive step forward.

In my community of Waterloo region, we have some incredible organizations that are doing some great work I'd like to tell you about. One of those organizations in my riding of Kitchener Centre is Extend-A-Family. Founded in 1980 by parents of children with developmental disabilities, Extend-A-Family was created as a way to build friendship and nurture community in the region. It started by matching supported families with other volunteer families in Waterloo region. This has remained its foundational model for many of its services to the community.

Extend-A-Family is supported by the Ministry of Community and Social Services as well as the Ministry of Children and Youth Services—and I see the minister is sitting in the House this afternoon. I know that the organization would like to extend to her and to the ministry thanks for support.

When I asked about an Ontario Down Syndrome Day, Karen Bennett, who is the director of organizational development, said that she's glad for an opportunity for this day—a day in recognition of giving voice to so many people whose voices have been stifled in the past. But Karen also wanted to express her hopes that the efforts won't stop here and this is another step in the process of creating and living in a society of inclusivity, recognizing not the disability but instead the gifts, strengths and citizenship of all people.

One young woman who is a client of Extend-A-Family is Jenny. She learned how to bake at Extend-A-Family, in the kitchen at their facility. She likes to visit my constituency office. She brings us homemade muffins and cookies. She has expressed interest in volunteering at our office. We welcome her, and I know that my staff and I are hoping that when she does visit, she's going to continue bringing us some of her freshly baked goods.

Also from Extend-A-Family, Brendan Solomon wished to express his views to me. He describes himself as an individual who loves life and does not want to be remembered for his differences. Brendan thinks that it's great to have an Ontario Down Syndrome Day as long as we recognize that it's not a celebration, it's a challenge.

That's exactly what this bill is about: We're recognizing the abilities of people with Down syndrome, sharing their positive stories and raising awareness. This

is a step toward the society of inclusivity that people like Karen, Jenny and Brendan are all working to advance.

Another organization from my region that I want to tell you about is the Waterloo Regional Down Syndrome Society. This is a group committed to providing a social and information network for families, advocating for persons with Down syndrome, and assisting the inclusion of people with Down syndrome in our community.

One of the events they stage every year that I just love to attend is the Buddy Walk. Buddy Walks take place right across North America. Local families and friends gather to walk together. This walk seeks to promote equitable opportunities for all Canadians who have Down syndrome while providing an opportunity to share success stories true to the spirit of Ontario Down Syndrome Day.

Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to support this bill. I want to commend my colleague the member from Ajax-Pickering for bringing it forward and for getting us to talk about it here this afternoon. I appreciate hearing, from my colleagues on the other side of the House as well as this side of the House, their views on this issue and their stories and experiences.

Mr. Speaker, it's important for us to celebrate the abilities and the stories of so many.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

**Mr. Taras Natyshak:** It's an honour to join the debate today. I want to begin by commending our colleague the member from Ajax-Pickering for bringing this important piece of legislation before us, and to echo the comments of my colleagues.

Speaker, I don't have that much time left to debate. I've got some prepared notes; I'll hit on a couple of them. One is that this bill would ensure that March 21 of each year would be proclaimed as Ontario Down Syndrome Day. This would align Ontario with the rest of the world in celebration of World Down Syndrome Day.

March 21, as has already been mentioned, is the date for World Down Syndrome Day, being the 21st day of the third month. It signifies the uniqueness of the triplication, the trisomy of the 21st chromosome, which causes Down syndrome. I think that is a very cool thing. Those who are advocates of persons with Down syndrome like to let us understand and know that that's the cause. They wear that and they're proud of that chromosome effect, because it makes them special. It makes them unique.

As we've met the kids in the gallery today—you have enriched our day here today. This place is hard enough to be in—we understand the frustration, believe us—but to be able to go up and meet the kids enriching our days made us smile. That's another thing that's hard to do for any of the members in here, is to crack a smile, so thank you to the kids who are here today, who have shared this day with us.

Speaker, it is obviously really important that we celebrate the achievements that persons with Down syndrome have achieved over the years. We have heard many

members referencing the challenges that they have overcome through our health care system and through our education system, but of course the resounding sentiment is that there is more to be done. There is certainly more that this government can do, and we support that.

This is a good first step. This is one that aligns us with other jurisdictions that recognize the uniqueness and exceptional contributions that persons with Down syndrome and their families make to our communities. It's something that should certainly be recognized, championed and promoted in this House.

Unfortunately, in 2016, this year, in March, we heard stories of Felipe Montoya's family as it hit the papers. Mr. Montoya, a professor of environmental studies at York University, was told that his family's permanent residency application was declined due to the fact that his 13-year-old son was living with Down syndrome. Imagine that, Speaker. According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, their family was denied residency because their son would cause too much of a strain on our health care system.

In a letter that the family received, CIC wrote that "your family member Nicolas Montoya is a person whose health condition might reasonably be expected to cause excessive demand on social services in Canada. An excessive demand is a demand for which the anticipated costs exceed the average Canadian per capita health and social services costs...."

Imagine that. In 2016, we have persons in our community—our neighbours, our friends, and professionals—

**Interjection:** Contributing.

**Mr. Taras Natyshak:** —contributing to the social fabric in our community. That is unacceptable.

I think that in passing this motion, we should speak loudly and clearly that all persons with disability deserve the utmost support from our society, as we can. We are a rich and prominent culture. If we are to deny persons with any disability the basic and primary support that they require, we are doing our society an injustice.

I call on Citizenship and Immigration Canada to ensure that they change their policy, especially in light of what other jurisdictions are doing and what we can and should do.

I'm going to treat the rest of the four minutes and 20 seconds I have on the clock as if the member from Ajax-Pickering's bill has already passed, and I'll congratulate him. Thank you very much.

It's passed—I'm going to treat it as if it has—because I want to leap forward to March 21, 2017, when I hopefully get to stand in this place and talk about someone who I think is an ambassador for persons with Down syndrome in Ontario—not only Ontario but Canada and the rest of the world—and guess what, I am lucky to have him and his parents live in my riding. His name is Andrew Banar. Andrew, Karen, Chris: I know you're watching. I'm going to give a shout-out.

1650

I'm going to tell you a little bit about Andrew. My colleagues from Windsor and Essex know him. He is

infamous. He is one of the most popular people in Essex county. Wherever he goes, he draws a crowd because he's awesome.

Andrew Banar was born with Down syndrome and has been challenged with many of the associated health issues. Andrew has always been happy and has lived his life to the fullest. He is fearless and pursues his interests and hobbies with excitement and dedication. He's a great source of inspiration and love for his large circle of extended family and friends.

Andrew keeps busy and active within the community. That's an understatement. He graduated from St. Clair College—the life skills program—in June 2014. He works part-time at Colasanti's Tropical Gardens in Ruthven. He has volunteered at the Leamington hospital and at Walmart. He has worked at the Kingsville golf course. He has taken drum lessons. He's also a serious fan of music and has attended a bunch of concerts—Barenaked Ladies, Green Day.

Here's a list of his accomplishments, Speaker. And I know that you know Andrew, because he's notorious in the Leamington area as well.

Andrew's awards include:

- the Council for Exceptional Children;
- the Kit Lacasse Memorial Award for grade 8 graduation;
- the Kit Lacasse Memorial Award for grade 12 graduation;
- the Cougar Challenge Award, grade 12 graduation;
- the Lions Club of Kingsville certificate for community volunteerism;
- the Canadian Down Syndrome Heroes award;
- the Queen's Diamond Jubilee award;
- the Rick Hansen Difference Maker recognition;
- the Community Inclusion Award through Community Living Essex County; and
- the Spirit of Philanthropy Award.

He is also an entrepreneur. He owns a business: Group Hug Apparel. They make T-shirts. If you haven't got one, you have to get one for your wardrobe. It's a must-wear if you're in Windsor and Essex county.

Not only does he make really cool clothes for folks to wear, to understand that giving a group hug is a wonderful sentiment that we should all do—I feel some days that we should give each other a group hug in this place; I'll come and give you a hug right afterwards—but he donates the proceeds of his business, of the sale of his clothing line, to local charities. He has given to Windsor's Family Respite Services, W.E. Care for Kids House, Hotel-Dieu Grace children's centre, Community Living.

The motto on the shirts is "Be Strong Rock On." It's one that we should all live by—it's a great credo—and he certainly does that.

He has been doing this charitable work since 2008, and he has raised over \$40,000 for local charities over the years. That is incredible. He visits sick kids in hospitals. He's an inspiration. He is the type of community-oriented individual that we should all strive to be.

I am honoured to have Andrew as a member of my community. Any time I get to hang out with him, I certainly take advantage of it because he is inspirational.

Through this bill, through recognizing Ontario Down Syndrome Day and the contributions that folks with Down syndrome make in our society, I think we can have a lot more Andrew Banars play a significant part in our community and celebrate the enrichment they bring.

I congratulate the member from Ajax–Pickering again. I can't wait to vote for this bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** It's a pleasure to rise on behalf of the citizens in Cambridge to add my comments to today's debate on Bill 182.

I want to start off by congratulating the member from Ajax–Pickering on bringing this forward. I know that he joins me in welcoming—she has already been introduced—Jennifer Crowson, who's with her son Owen, who spoke so well at the justice committee, and with them are Alice and her son Mac. Thank you very much for joining us this afternoon. It really means a lot to us, as other members have said.

I first got to know a lot of children with Down syndrome as a pediatric nurse at SickKids. I started my career at SickKids, and many, many children were there. Before I started, when I first got my acceptance at SickKids, my mother, Barbara, who was a former pediatric nurse herself, told me a little bit about her experiences as a pediatric nurse. She told me that children with Down syndrome were among the most sunny, loyal and loving personalities that she'd ever met and that I would most likely experience that. I'd have to say that that indeed was my experience at the Hospital for Sick Children.

Very often, those children were admitted to SickKids for several reasons. With issues when they were born, they were often brought there to be diagnosed. Once they had their diagnosis of trisomy 21, some of them would undergo tests, because as we know, many of these children also experience medical issues. The ones I saw when I was on the infant ward at SickKids came in with cardiac issues; with feeding difficulties; reduced muscle tone, which caused other issues; not meeting their milestones; having disabilities related to learning later on in life, because, on my unit, we looked after children up to age four.

Speaker, I got to know these children and a lot of their medical histories over the time, and I've got to say that, even now, some of my most memorable patients and some of my most wonderful memories at SickKids were really looking after and caring for the children and families associated with Down syndrome.

As we know, when I started my nursing career several decades ago, children living with Down syndrome had a reduced life expectancy; I would say probably in their late twenties, at about the time I started. So that's dating myself as a nurse of many decades. But I also know that as these children grow and develop into adults, a great many adult Down syndrome folks end up experiencing issues with early-onset dementia and have difficulty.

We know now that we have people living with Down syndrome much later; they have a life expectancy into their sixties and seventies. But that does pose some of the challenges, as we've heard in the House and as we know. Parents who have cared for their adult children with Down syndrome over their lifetime are unable to continue caregiving.

I was a care coordinator for CCAC for the last few years before I was elected, so I actually got to know many adults with Down syndrome who needed alternative living arrangements. Their parents were no longer able to care for them, and some themselves had passed. I very often was involved in a situation where I would be helping them to live in assisted homes, group homes, sometimes retirement homes with assisted living, and for those who had dementia that was at an advanced stage, sometimes we would have to have them go to a long-term-care facility.

It speaks to the investments we've been making in health care to be able to continue to see them grow and develop. We have had a lot of investment when it comes to looking after some of their medical issues.

But there are still some issues that people have been dealing with with this disability in terms of discrimination. Many, of course, are going to schools. They're having assistance in their learning environments, and many are contributing greatly to the quality of life that we have in our own communities.

I know we've heard many stories this afternoon, and personal stories, about folks with Down syndrome. When I worked at the Waterloo Wellington CCAC, we had two very diligent young men who looked after our coffee shop in the building. They also assisted us in the lunchroom and provided what we needed every day to continue to do lunch-and-learns and to cater certain events. They were wonderful employees.

I was recently at an event that really focused on hiring people with disabilities, more inclusive hiring. There was a story from a coffee shop owner who talked about his experience with having an adult with Down syndrome come into a shop and say, "I'd like a job, please." He had the potential employee go and fill out his application form, and he decided that he would hire this young man. He said that within six months' time, this was the most reliable, loyal, friendly employee that he had ever had. He made a lot of this employee. He took him on the road to several other organizations that were looking at the practices of more inclusive hiring. He was a wonderful young man.

**1700**

I really just wanted to add my support today to proclaiming the 21st day of March as Ontario Down Syndrome Day, providing a dedicated occasion where we can all celebrate the achievements of those living with Down syndrome; bring more positive stories and more awareness; highlight some of our research and information that can be shared with other organizations to ensure that we, as Ontario, can continue to be fully enriched by those individuals and families who live with Down

syndrome; and be able to ensure that we can provide positive life outcomes for all people living with Down syndrome in Ontario.

I have to leave you with one comment from this young man who was such a fantastic employee in the local coffee shop. He said, "Please, I want everybody to be aware that we should all see the ability in disability."

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

Pursuant to the order of the House dated Monday, May 30, 2016, I am now required to put the question. Mr. Dickson has moved third reading of Bill 182, An Act to proclaim Ontario Down Syndrome Day. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

# ROWAN'S LAW ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT, 2016

## LOI DE 2016 SUR LE COMITÉ CONSULTATIF DE LA LOI ROWAN

Ms. MacLeod moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill 149, An Act to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on the jury recommendations made in the inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer / Projet de loi 149, Loi créant un comité consultatif chargé d'examiner les recommandations formulées par le jury à la suite de l'enquête sur le décès de Rowan Stringer.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** I recognize Ms. MacLeod.

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** This is a very proud day for me and my colleagues from Kitchener–Waterloo and Ottawa South. Today we have arranged, I think, for all-party support of a bill that will deal with youth concussions in a very interesting way, becoming the first in Canada to have concussion legislation on the books, right here in the province of Ontario. I couldn't be more proud to be with this process with my colleagues, but also with my constituents.

Rowan Stringer was 17 years old. She grew up in Barrhaven, in the southwest end of the city of Ottawa. She played rugby. In the course of a three-week period, Rowan suffered multiple concussions. Unfortunately, that would be fatal. She would die from something that we're all learning is called second-impact syndrome.

There was a coroner's inquest into Rowan's death that produced 49 different recommendations. It was a year ago just last week that that inquest concluded. Rowan's parents came to see me to talk about implementing those 49 recommendations. I'm very proud today that Gord and Kathleen Stringer have joined us in the gallery once again.

A year ago, I didn't know how I was going to help them and what the process would be. We tried multiple drafts of the legislation. I have been very open about

some of the struggles I had during that period of time last year, which makes this bill that much more important to me and to my family.

It was through the help of my colleagues John Fraser and Catherine Fife, the legislative drafters at Queen's Park and my good staff—Julia Mackenzie, Jordan Milks, Frank Hall, Kayla Fernet, Helen Byers and Patricia St. Louis—that we crafted a non-controversial, very important, incredibly stringent set of guidelines that will allow us, over the next year, to provide an implementation approach for those 49 recommendations, particularly those that are within provincial jurisdiction, in order to set up guidelines for return to play, other parameters and protocols in terms of identifying and treating concussions, and making sure that the relevant players are onside.

I would be remiss not to say thank you to the three government House leaders, Yasir Naqvi, Jim Wilson and Gilles Bisson, for making this agreement so that this law will be the first of its kind in Canada with rare all-party support. Speaker, that makes me so proud to be an MPP, and it is certainly the proudest moment of my 10-year career.

The fact is that many people suffer from concussions. We're learning now that not only can people die from second-impact syndrome, but as we've learned from the Concussion movie and from other instances that have occurred throughout North America, other diseases like CTE or Parkinson's can be a result of multiple concussions.

I've learned that CHEO, the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario, which has endorsed this bill, sees roughly 1,000 youth every year in their emergency room. I've learned from Dr. Charles Tator, who was part of the inquest and has been a friend to this entire process, that girls are more susceptible to concussions. We have learned that multiple concussions can mean there could be mental health problems, depression, even alcohol addiction or other types of addictions, if the concussions are not treated.

I also learned in this process—it's not really relevant to concussions—that Eric Lindros once played the trumpet and he was first chair. I was really excited to learn about that.

But I was really pleased throughout this process, because we not only had this wonderful political support with the House leaders and with my colleagues, but even the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, Mr. Michael Coteau, came onside to endorse this legislation, and I'm grateful to him.

What this bill will do is effectively bring forward five ministries with 15 appointees in a year period to look at those recommendations and to implement them across government lines. It will be the first time it's done in Canada, Speaker, but it's done in every jurisdiction in the United States. That's why I'm proud today to have Pink Concussions here, an organization from the United States who have flown all the way here to Canada to pass this historic legislation. I'm very grateful for them.

I'm not going to speak much longer, Speaker, but there are a lot of people I need to thank. When Rowan's parents first came to see me, I talked about the wonderful support I had from my political colleagues, but it was the grassroots support from the people of Ottawa, in particular the people of Barrhaven, that made a difference. I've already mentioned Kathleen and Gord Stringer, but I'd like to mention Darrell Bartraw, Joe and Linda Price, Gary Thomas, Bob Wilson, Kit Frost, Sandy Niquet, Graham Rattray, Paul Hunter, Barb Gillie, Phil Selig, Ashley Powers, Dr. Sarah Cohen, Dr. Michael Vassilyadi of CHEO, Dr. Roger Zemek of CHEO, and Eric and Kina Lindros.

That was Rowan's Barrhaven team. But Rowan also has a much larger team across the province, of experts, people in the medical community and people in the athletic community who decided that they wanted to champion this bill. I'd like to say thank you to Dr. Charles Tator, Dr. Michael Strong, Dr. Lisa Fischer, Dr. Cameron Marshall, Kyle Reidhead, Louise Logan, Scott Watson, Dr. Frances Flint, Loriann Hynes, Drew Laskoski, David Patterson, Susan Kitchen, Mercedes Watson, Ruth Wilcock, Dr. Henry Svec, and Carol De Matteo. They are Rowan's Toronto team, a really remarkable group of people.

My friend Phil set up a Facebook page and a Twitter account for Rowan's Law. As I walked down here today I checked my BlackBerry. I could only assume it was Kathleen who wrote on the page: "Today is for you, little Row," and it is. On Saturday, as we supported Rowan's Pitch, the renaming of the South Nepean park, thanks to councillors Jan Harder and Jody Mitic, who are part of Rowan's Team, a lot of the actual athletes who played rugby with Rowan were there. Two of them are former summer students of mine who are close family friends. They were 17 when they lost their friend and teammate Rowan Stringer. Alex Ellis and Lowri Gauthier were in the crowd. Lowri had just lost her mother, a very good friend of mine, Mel Gauthier. Lowri was there and very bravely said that she wished there had been concussion legislation before so that the process would be there, but she said, "If there was one person who could make change, it was Rowan."

1710

So I looked at the girls who were on the field with us and I appealed to them, and I appeal to the young people who are pages here today, if they play sports: If you have a head injury and you're playing sports—you're skiing, you're playing soccer, hockey, ringette, rugby; it doesn't matter—if you're hurt, you need to tell somebody. You need to tell your parents; you need to tell your coach; you need to tell your teacher. And if you won't take yourself out of play for yourself, you need to take yourself out of play for Rowan.

With that, I want to thank all my colleagues in advance for what I consider the greatest day in my political career and one that has made a difference not only to the Stringer family and to all of the people in the city of Ottawa—trust me, they are cheering this bill and they are

applauding it; they love Rowan's Law—but we are doing it for all the youth athletes in Ontario.

With that, I wish all of the appointees from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Sport, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services and the Ministry of Health Godspeed in the next 12 months as they implement these recommendations. We honour the life of Rowan Stringer, and we understand that the tragedy that took her life can't be replicated because it was preventable.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** It's such a pleasure and such a privilege to join the debate today. I want to say at the outset that this was one of the first times that co-sponsorship of any piece of legislation has come forward for quite some time. I think we have Rowan and the Stringer family to thank. Some people may think it is nothing short of a miracle that we all worked together, but it is actually a model for greater integrity and principles, going forward, to craft legislation.

I want to say that the issue of concussions first came to my attention when I was president of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. It's good to see Howard Goodman here today from that association. We were really instrumental in pushing PPM 158 forward in the school system. That all came about because a mother had reached out to me as a trustee and said, "My daughter is an athlete. She was injured, and the school is not dealing with her injury seriously." In fact, they were being quite flippant about it. That's because there wasn't a lot of knowledge around concussions. There still isn't, which makes this piece of legislation so important.

When Dr. Charles Tator came to our committee and said that concussions are a serious public health issue, it resonated with the entire committee, I think. I personally also went through this issue. I referenced this story. My son was a hockey player. He was injured and had two successive concussions. When the doctor said, "Your son has a brain injury," it was a huge blow and a huge moment of fear that I had as a parent. But after that, having that knowledge was actually an empowering moment, and that's very symbolic of the work that we're going to accomplish today in this House, because knowledge does empower, and I do wish—and I prayed on this—that the Stringer family had had that opportunity. I wish every family in the province of Ontario actually has this knowledge. But Rowan's Law, I hope, will ensure that every parent has that knowledge transferred from the medical community so that they can move forward with that knowledge and with that power. We're part of that journey, I think, through this legislation.

As has already been mentioned, Rowan Stringer's story is beyond heartbreaking. It was incredibly powerful to hear Dr. Charles Tator say that it was preventable. I think that that adds to the tragedy that it was. It was just an incredibly emotional moment to hear that, and it will stay with me and, I think, every member that has been on this journey as well.

I don't think that we've fully acknowledged the power of this legislation yet, because when I first started talking with the MPPs from Ottawa South and Nepean—Carleton about Rowan's Law, it sparked this interest from people across the province—from the education sector, from the world of work, from the medical community—because people want to be part of the solution. They really do. But it was also incredibly powerful to hear Dr. Charles Tator say that the legislation is needed. It grounds all of that knowledge and makes it actionable.

Just like the member from Nepean—Carleton, there have been a lot of people who have reached out to me over the course of these months:

—Peter Baxter, who is the director of athletics at Wilfrid Laurier, and also Ontario University Athletics president. So this will go to the university level;

—Fitz the Whip Vanderpool, the winner of six Canadian and international boxing championships. His young boxers have been collecting petitions in Rowan's honour over the months, and I've had a chance to read them here in this place; and, finally

—Kerry Goulet, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame and co-founder of Stop Concussions along with NHL player Keith Primeau.

Keith Primeau has gone on the record, and I think it's so courageous and so powerful when athletes speak out about their experiences with concussions, because they're modelling this behaviour for amateur athletes going forward. They're opening that opportunity to say, "I am injured," and to acknowledge that that injury is a serious injury and that you have to respect your body going forward and not reinjure it.

Their Stop Concussions work has focused on education, awareness and making the game safer, and I think the key theme here is the prevention piece. Charles Tator said that the only cure for a concussion is to not have a concussion, but the knowledge that we have about recovery is so powerful.

All of these individuals who I've mentioned want to be involved in the issue of addressing concussions, starting with awareness and prevention among young people and athletes. But when this expert panel comes into play, when they have this work before them, I think that it's our collective hope that they will also explore not just return to play, but return to learn and return to work, because these are important pieces that are part of the broader holistic conversation on concussions.

I also want to thank some of the folks who have come here today: from York University, Lorian Hynes; Ashton Spear, a therapist with the Ontario Athletic Therapist Association; Nancy Coldham; Drew Laskoski; Dr. Nick Reed, Jason Carmichael, Karolina Urban, Harminder Sandhu, Tiffany Toong, Michelle Tanel and Stewart Wong from Holland Bloorview; from Parachute Canada, Scott Watson and Louise Logan. And, as I mentioned, Howard Goodman is here as well.

Finally, this is the first of its kind in the country. It's the first time I've been a part of a process where all parties have come together. It will be my first private member's bill that becomes law.

I just want to thank the Stringer family for sharing Rowan with us. I'm just so incredibly impressed with your personal commitment to honour the life of your daughter, but also to ensure that the legislation that comes from this place is meaningful and positive, and that it does what we need it to do.

This is a good day at Queen's Park. Let's make those 49 recommendations actionable, and let this be a model for us all going forward.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

1720

**Mr. John Fraser:** Rowan Stringer's death was preventable. That is what has brought us here today to the third reading of Bill 149, Rowan's Law, An Act to establish a committee to make recommendations made in the inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer.

Rowan's Law speaks to the first of 49 recommendations made at the inquest and the need to govern both school- and non-school-based youth sport in relation to the prevention and treatment of concussions.

The following 48 recommendations set out challenges to ministries, school boards, sports organizations, public health officials, health research and reporting organizations, insurers, coaches and parents.

The message is clear from those recommendations: We have a responsibility to respond to the need to protect our youth from concussions through protocols, prevention and education.

The journey that is Rowan's Law has brought us all together. Joining us today in the gallery are Gordon and Kathleen Stringer and, as you've heard, many representatives of Rowan's team both in Ottawa and here in Toronto and across the province. For every person who is here to celebrate with us today, there are many more back home in their offices, in their classrooms and on playing fields waiting to celebrate the passage of this bill.

The sense of community around Rowan's Law is really quite impressive. I want to thank my colleague the MPP from Nepean—Carleton, Lisa MacLeod, for inviting me and the member from Kitchener—Waterloo, Catherine Fife, to co-sponsor this bill with her. We are at our best in this Legislature when we get together and give expression to what matters most to people—the people we represent. In this case, it's the health and safety of our children.

The spirit of collaboration and teamwork was reflected in the amendments to this bill—expanding the committee to include the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; and including a review of legislation, regulations, policies and best practices from other jurisdictions—which broaden the scope of the bill. These are both great additions that we all worked together to include.

It's actually quite remarkable that from introduction to passage, we're less than six months. I know the member from Oxford had a bill that he worked on for five years, which he should be congratulated for as well.

I am most grateful to the member for Nepean—Carleton for introducing me to Rowan's parents, Gordon

and Kathleen Stringer. They are incredible people, parents and advocates. Their determination to see some good come out of their personal tragedy is commendable. Although I have never met Rowan, from what I have come to know about her, I can confidently say what my father often said, and that is that the apple does not fall far from the tree.

The Stringers have experienced what all parents fear the most: harm or tragedy to our daughters or sons, the death of a child.

I will never forget listening to Kathleen recount their story for a group of people at Nepean High School this winter: the four days Rowan was at CHEO, where the staff did everything they could for her; how they honoured Rowan's wishes and had her organs donated to the Trillium Gift of Life; the call they received on the Monday when they learned that her organs had given eight people a precious new lease on life; how unexpectedly the phone kept ringing that day with media calls, something they were not expecting or prepared for.

In minutes, they made a decision to make a difference, to forge ahead and tell their story, to try to have some good come from their family's tragedy. I was struck and continue to be moved by the courage of this decision.

There are parents here today and maybe some watching and some listening. I want you to imagine where the Stringers were at. Your worst fear happens. It's draining, emotional and a surreal experience. Your life is changed forever. You are at your most vulnerable. You have only begun to grieve. Your wound is still open. There's a strong instinct to turn inward and protect yourself and your family. You make a decision with no road map, no clear path forward. You run the risk of reliving your experience over and over again. You make yourself incredibly vulnerable. It was a very, very courageous decision that has brought us to this point.

I'm reading a book called *Daring Greatly* by Brené Brown, and some of you may have heard of her. She's got some TED Talks out there; she's really quite accomplished. I'd like to read this passage from the book, and it's actually taken from Teddy Roosevelt's Citizenship in a Republic speech. I think it is appropriate for Rowan and her family. I'd like to take a little bit of literary licence with it. I think you'll be able to pick it out:

It is not the critic who counts; not the woman who points out how the strong woman stumbles or where the doer of deeds could have done it better. The credit belongs to the woman who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes up short again and again, because there is no effort without error or shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends herself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at worst, if she fails, at least fails while daring greatly.

Gordon and Kathleen, you have dared greatly. You have done your daughter proud and done a great thing for young athletes.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, there's a certain irony about today. It was something that Gordon Stringer said to me about today, about the passage of this bill, at the naming of Rowan's Pitch last Saturday: "Today is the end of the beginning." This journey, the journey that is Rowan's Law, will continue. I'm confident that it will end with Ontario being a leader in the prevention and treatment of concussions in youth in North America and it will inspire other jurisdictions to follow.

Once again, I'd like to thank the member from Nepean–Carleton for bringing this forward to both the member from Kitchener Centre and myself and for all her efforts in her community representing her constituents. Thanks to all those who supported Rowan's Law, all those who were here today, individuals, families, sports organizations, health care professionals, teachers and coaches, athletes, our colleagues, the Premier, the ministers, and in particular Minister Coteau and his staff and their staff. Your collective efforts are even more important, going forward.

Finally, to the Stringers: You have dared greatly, and that has made all the difference.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Further debate?

Pursuant to the order of the House, dated Monday, May 30, 2016, I am now required to put the question.

Ms. MacLeod has moved third reading of Bill 149, An Act to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on the jury recommendations made in the inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** Point of order, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** I recognize the member for Nepean–Carleton on a point of order.

**Ms. Lisa MacLeod:** Thank you very much, Speaker. In my speech, I left out someone who is very important and isn't in the chamber with us today, but I'd like to dedicate this bill to her and her parents, and that is Cassie Stringer.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** Orders of the day? I recognize the deputy House leader.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I move adjournment of the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Rick Nicholls):** The deputy House leader has moved adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House? Agreed? Agreed.

This House is now adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

*The House adjourned at 1729.*

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## Legislative Assembly of Ontario

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## Assemblée législative de l'Ontario

Première session, 41<sup>e</sup> législature

# Official Report of Debates (Hansard)

# Journal des débats (Hansard)

Wednesday 8 June 2016

Mercredi 8 juin 2016



Speaker  
Honourable Dave Levac

Président  
L'honorable Dave Levac

Clerk  
Deborah Deller

Greffière  
Deborah Deller

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday 8 June 2016

# ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

Mercredi 8 juin 2016

*The House met at 0900.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Good morning. Please join me in prayer.

*Prayers.*

## MEMBERS' EXPENDITURES

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I beg to inform the House that I have laid upon the table the individual members' expenditures for the fiscal year 2015-16. Members will find copies in their desks.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LA LOI FAVORISANT UN ONTARIO SANS FUMÉE

Mr. Fraser, on behalf of Ms. Damerla, moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill 178, An Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act / Projet de loi 178, Loi modifiant la Loi favorisant un Ontario sans fumée.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Ottawa South.

**Mr. John Fraser:** Mr. Speaker, I'll be sharing my time with the member from Halton.

I am once again proud to rise in support of the Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, and I'd like to thank the associate minister for the opportunity to do so. I believe strongly that this is a piece of legislation that is worthy of support by all members of this House.

The issue presented by the legislation we are considering today is very straightforward: Do we want smoking laws to be fair, consistent and that accomplish what they are in place to do, which is to protect Ontarians? If we do, then how can we not support the Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016? Madam Speaker, let me explain.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act was a groundbreaking piece of legislation. It was the foundation for a strategy that has made Ontario's enclosed public spaces and workplaces safer and healthier, that has supported people who want to quit smoking, and that has made it harder for young people to get caught up in this dangerous habit. But in the decade since the act was written, a great deal has changed.

Madam Speaker, I represent the riding of Ottawa South, so I want to give a bit of a shout-out right now to the former member from Ottawa-Orléans, Phil McNeely, who brought in an amendment on power walls. He did a lot to prevent youth from starting to smoke. I know it was something that was very important to him. He was a city councillor and worked very closely with Medical Officer of Health Rob Cushman and then-Mayor Bob Chiarelli on some other groundbreaking work in terms of banning smoking in restaurants and bars, which at the time was a very controversial thing. People felt that it was going to severely affect businesses. In fact, it actually had the opposite impact and increased business in restaurants in Ottawa. So I thought it was important to give them a shout-out this morning. They're a big part of how we got to where we are today, and I know that Phil would be very supportive of this piece of legislation.

We need to understand two things, specifically. One is the introduction of e-cigarettes into the marketplace. They're increasingly popular today, when they weren't 10 years ago. The other thing, of course, is the use of medical marijuana as a treatment for pain, glaucoma and other ailments. When the Smoke-Free Ontario Act was written, there was no need to think about the implications with respect to marijuana. Today, there is, and so we are here.

The legislation we have before us today would, if passed, amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act to allow for the inclusion of substances other than just tobacco. That, in turn, would allow our government to move ahead with proposed regulatory amendments that would bring medical marijuana under the umbrella of the act, prescribing it as a substance that is subject to the act's "no smoking" rules—simple, logical and in keeping with the times.

Also, in keeping with the times, this amendment would be in line with other amendments we have proposed to the regulation made under the Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2015, which would prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in smoke-free places such as restaurant and bar patios, playgrounds and publicly owned sporting areas, including—and this is important—using vaporizers to consume medical marijuana. That was not something we needed to worry about a decade ago, but it is something we must be aware of today.

I would now like to take my colleagues through the specifics of what we are proposing to do with these amendments to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. First and foremost, we are proposing to expand on a very basic concept in our society; that is, the idea of "No Smoking."

Where it once simply meant not smoking tobacco, it would now be broader than that.

If passed, the legislation we are considering today would allow the government to prescribe, by regulation, products or substances beyond tobacco that would be subject to the act's "no smoking" rules; specifically, medical marijuana. If you can't smoke the one, you can't smoke the other. If you see a sign that says "No Smoking," you know that, just as it is not okay to smoke tobacco, it is not okay to smoke medical marijuana.

To be very clear, this isn't a judgment on the efficacy of medical marijuana; it is a reflection of a concern we have all had for many, many years about the effects and dangers of second-hand smoke. For obvious reasons, those concerns apply as much to medical marijuana as they do to tobacco.

We also propose to amend the act to list very clearly where it would be illegal to smoke a prescribed product or substance. That would be as follows:

- enclosed public spaces;
- enclosed workplaces;
- schools, as defined in the Education Act;
- the building or grounds of a private school or, in instances where the private school is not the only occupant of a property, the grounds annexed to the school;
- the common area in a condominium, apartment building, or university or college residence, including elevators, hallways, parking garages, party or entertainment rooms, laundry facilities, lobbies and exercise areas;
- child care centres, places where home child care is provided or places where an early years program or services are provided as defined by the Child Care and Early Years Act, 2014;
- the reserved seating area of a sports arena or entertainment venue;
- motor vehicles while a person less than 16 years old is present; or
- any other area prescribed by regulation as smoke-free, which currently includes the outdoor grounds of hospitals and provincial government office buildings; nine metres surrounding any entrance or exit of a hospital, long-term-care home or independent health facility; restaurant and bar patios; children's playgrounds and public areas within 20 metres of the playground; and publicly owned sporting areas, adjacent spectator areas and public areas within 20 metres of these areas.

None of these should be a surprise. These are all places where smoking tobacco is already prohibited. As I said a moment ago, the idea here is that if you can't smoke one, you can't smoke the other.

The amendments we are proposing would also place a responsibility on employers or proprietors who control, if you will, enclosed workplaces, enclosed public spaces or any other public location on the list I just read. They would have the same responsibilities they now have with respect to the smoking of tobacco, but those responsibilities would be extended to include the new prescribed substances.

Employers and proprietors are currently responsible for ensuring that people in the public spaces or workplaces they control comply with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. They are currently responsible for posting proper "No Smoking" signage and for ensuring that anyone who refuses to obey those signs is removed from the area.

#### 0910

If the amendments we are proposing should pass, employers and proprietors would continue to be responsible for these things, but their responsibilities would also cover other prescribed products and substances, specifically medical marijuana. It's really very simple: The Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy, as the name implies, is about protecting people from second-hand smoke. If you are smoking tobacco in public places, you are subjecting the people around you to second-hand smoke. If you are smoking medical marijuana in public places, you are subjecting the people around you to second-hand smoke. In situations where the smoking of tobacco is inappropriate, then surely the smoking of medical marijuana should be as well.

There is one workplace exception that we consider to be important, and that is in scientific research and testing facilities. We are proposing an exemption for scientific research and testing facilities where people, as part of their job description or participation in a study, smoke or hold lighted prescribed products or substances. That exemption would extend to whomever was smoking or holding the lighted prescribed product or substance, as well as to employers and proprietors of the facilities. Our government recognizes the importance of science and research, specifically with respect to learning more about the effects of medical marijuana and other substances that might be smoked. It would be our intention to support research into these things as opposed to deterring it, and that is why we are proposing this exemption.

Finally on this, we come to the proper application and enforcement of the law. Right now, we have clear rules around inspectors and inspection of tobacco law compliance, and clear penalties that are applied when people fail to obey tobacco law. This proposed legislation, if passed, would extend those rules and those penalties to medical marijuana and any other prescribed products or substances.

Speaker, in proposing these amendments, we are trying to accomplish two very important things: One, we are trying to bring our smoking laws into line with the new smoking reality, and that reality is that a growing number of people smoke medical marijuana; and two, we are trying to lay the groundwork for future flexibility, so that if another smokable substance starts to gain popularity, we can protect people from the harms associated with smoking that substance as well. As I said earlier: simple, logical, clear and in keeping with the times.

As I noted earlier, this proposed legislation would ensure consistency with other regulations we have proposed. As noted by the associate minister, our government is also proposing certain amendments to the regulation under the Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2015, that would

mirror “no smoking” rules. These would prohibit using e-cigarettes and vaporizers to consume any substance, including medical marijuana, in smoke-free places such as restaurant and bar patios, playgrounds and publicly owned sporting areas.

In addition, we are proposing to establish rules around the display and promotion of e-cigarettes at places where they are sold. We are proposing that the prohibition on using e-cigarettes in an enclosed workplace and enclosed public place under the Electronic Cigarettes Act apply to the testing or sampling of e-cigarettes in retail stores and vapour lounges. We are proposing to expand the list of places where e-cigarettes are prohibited for sale, such as schools, universities, child care centres and so forth.

In all of this, we are applying the same logic, fairness and commitment to protecting Ontarians that guided us originally when we brought in the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Second-hand smoke is a danger. Second-hand vape is a potential danger, and we simply don't know enough about it at this time. Our first and most important responsibility is to protect Ontarians from danger, and these proposed amendments do that. They are also fair and consistent.

We want to put in place legislation and regulations that take into consideration reasonable use of medical marijuana, whether smoked or vaped, but do not allow that use to harm others. The exception would be the display and promotion rules for e-cigarettes, which would come into force on January 1, 2017, to help businesses adjust to the new reality.

The legislation before us today is a testament to common sense, fairness and responsiveness to public need. We have been hearing for some time from employers and businesses that they want and need clear and consistent direction from the province on the smoking of medical marijuana in public places. We are proposing to provide that direction, and the direction we are proposing to provide is one that falls into line with the “no smoking” rules for tobacco.

Basically, we have rules designed to protect Ontarians from second-hand smoke. We have rules particularly designed to protect kids from second-hand smoke.

Medical marijuana is a new kind of second-hand smoke, and so we are proposing to adjust our rules accordingly so that all our protections still apply. In addition to that, we recognize that e-cigarettes and vaping present a new potential danger, both to young users and to people exposed to second-hand vapour.

We are proposing to apply the same common sense and fairness to the protection of Ontarians on that front. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act and our broader strategy on smoking have changed this province for the better. We are proud of that and we are determined to ensure that that continues.

Madam Speaker, I'll also be sharing my time with the associate minister, but I just want to finish up here.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act and our broader strategy on smoking have changed this province for the better. We are proud of that and we are determined to ensure

that will continue. That means adapting to changing times. It means reflecting the current reality and it means identifying new threats to health and safety, and acting accordingly.

I cannot imagine that anyone in this chamber would disagree with me on that, so I urge my colleagues to support the Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I recognize the Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Dipika Damerla:** It truly is an honour and a privilege to rise and speak to the third reading of the Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016. I want to thank Parliamentary Assistant John Fraser, not only for all of the work he has done on the smoke-free Ontario file, but more broadly on many areas within the Ministry of Health and in particular around hospices. Thank you, John, for all of that.

I would also like to inform you, Speaker, that when I was asked to take on the role of Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, I was given a mandate to promote wellness in this province. In my two years in this role, I have had the opportunity to travel and speak to many groups on many different occasions. If there is one message I have worked hard to convey at every opportunity, it is that prevention is more powerful than our most effective medical intervention. Or, as that old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. I'm sure there's a metric version to it that I'll one day find out.

Another single, most important step any one of us can take to ensure our own good health is to make the choice to be a non-smoker, ideally by never taking up smoking in the first place, but making the decision to quit and taking the necessary steps to succeed is equally important.

I am pleased to report that we have a strong record of programs and legislation that support both of these choices. Our work goes even further. We have also taken bold steps to protect non-smokers from the well-documented dangers of second-hand smoke, and we have made real and measurable progress toward making Ontario smoke-free.

Let me cite some very telling numbers. In 2000, 24.5% of Ontarians, nearly one in four people, were smokers. Today, that number is down to 17.4%. That's over 400,000 fewer smokers in Ontario today than in the year 2000. That's 400,000 healthier Ontarians.

There is only one way that kind of progress gets made, and that's when people come together and unite in a common cause. When we unite for the benefit of the people, we are able to better serve as political leaders, as public health planners and providers, and as caregivers. That's why just last week, many of those people were gathered here at Queen's Park for a well-deserved celebration as we marked the 10th anniversary of our government's Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy and the passage of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act into law on May 31, 2006. I was really pleased that this was a non-partisan event and that we had MPP Yurek, who is the health critic for the Conservatives, and Madame France Gélinas, who is the

health critic for the NDP, also present at the Heather Crowe awards and the celebration of Smoke-Free Ontario's 10th anniversary.

0920

We created what the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario has called one of the toughest anti-tobacco laws in the world. The Smoke-Free Ontario Act banned smoking in all enclosed public places and enclosed workplaces. It is worth remembering just how significant a change that was. It wouldn't be overstating the matter to call it a seismic shift. Change on that scale is never easy and is often accompanied by spirited debate. It is also worth remembering that there were those, at the time, who said our ban on smoking in enclosed public places couldn't, or shouldn't, be implemented. There were others who said it would be unenforceable or impractical.

I'm proud to be able to stand here today and report that we did not listen to the naysayers. Instead, we chose to lead. It is because of the steps we took in 2006 and in the years since that we have made such dramatic progress toward creating a smoke-free culture here in Ontario. Together, we put an end to smoking in motor vehicles where there are children under the age of 16. We have prohibited the sale of flavoured tobacco, which we know is a product that is targeted at young people to get them hooked early—what other reason could there be for cherry-flavoured tobacco? We put an end to the sale of tobacco products on university and college campuses, and an end to smoking on playgrounds and publicly owned sports fields, and bar and restaurant patios. As of January 1 this year, we introduced a ban on the sale or supply of electronic cigarettes to minors.

To commemorate all the progress we have made together, we took the opportunity, on May 31, to present 10 individuals, groups and organizations with awards recognizing their contributions toward making Ontario smoke-free. The awards were named after Heather Crowe, who famously advocated for awareness of the dangers of second-hand smoke. Her work helped inspire the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Heather, as some of you may know, had never smoked a day in her life but developed lung cancer after being exposed to second-hand smoke in her workplace over many years. Sadly, Heather Crowe died in 2006, just nine days—nine short days—before the act came into law.

The recipients of the awards named in her honour have continued Heather's work by helping more people to live smoke-free in communities across this province. They include Dr. Ted Boadway, whose pioneering work with the Ontario Medical Association has been driving tobacco control health policy in Ontario since the early 1990s; the city of Hamilton Board of Health for their groundbreaking work in smoking prevention among young people; and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute for their landmark work in developing the Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation, which is aimed at providing support to smokers looking to quit.

Speaking of smoking cessation, I had the opportunity at our May 31 event to announce the next phase of our

plan to help Ontario smokers become non-smokers. It's called Helping Smokers Quit: Ontario's Smoking Cessation Action Plan. As I said earlier, the best choice Ontarians can make with regard to smoking is never to start. The second-best choice they can make is to quit. The evidence tells us that most people who smoke want to quit. In fact, about half a million Ontarians who smoke say they intend to quit in the next 30 days, and over one million Ontarians say they intend to quit in the next six months.

The evidence also tells us that nicotine is highly addictive. That makes quitting hard—very hard—and we acknowledge that. That is why it may sometimes take close to 30 attempts before someone can stop smoking. Because quitting is so difficult, the health care system must be there to provide help and support on the first attempt and every attempt. That is why we put in place a new set of initiatives to help.

First, we're investing an additional \$5 million in 2016-17 to get the right supports to populations with high smoking rates, starting this year. These populations could include, for example, indigenous people; people with chronic conditions or a number of serious health problems; people with mental health and addictions issues; people who work in the industrial and service sectors; young adults; people who are at high risk of poor health outcomes from smoking, such as people in hospitals; and people whose smoking will have a negative impact on their own and others' health, such as young women who are pregnant or have just had a baby.

We will also be taking additional steps to let smokers know where they can find the help they need to quit. We are creating a new online smoking cessation hub. It will function as a centralized access point to help smokers navigate the system and find local services and tools to help them quit.

In simple English what this means is if you were, for instance, in Mississauga or Perth or Wellington and you wanted to say, "Well, I want to quit smoking. What are the local supports?", you could go to this website and find the information that's local: which is the public health unit or which is the community health centre or which family practice or which STOP program is available locally in your neighbourhood. That's the power of this centralized access point, and I'm pleased to say, Madam Speaker, that it will be in place by the summer of 2017.

We are also developing a common look and feel for all cessation services and doing more to integrate and promote them. That's why we're creating a cessation service network. It will help make services better coordinated and easier to find for people who need them.

We're also expanding province-wide quit line services. Our new service will provide coaching and counselling by phone and text. More importantly, it will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, because we know that Ontarians don't need support just during business hours, because we know that Ontarians don't want to quit smoking just during business hours.

Lastly, we will actively monitor and evaluate the cessation action plan to ensure that all tobacco users in Ontario and their families have easy access to a coordinated system of supportive, effective and efficient cessation services.

All of our work around smoking over the last few months and years has been focused around one goal, and that is to see the province of Ontario achieve the lowest smoking rate in Canada. Over the past 10 years, we've seen a remarkable drop in the number of people who smoke. Right now, we have the third-lowest rate of smoking in the country, slightly behind British Columbia and Manitoba. Yet two million Ontarians—almost one in five—still smoke, and each year tobacco claims 13,000 lives. So we have more work to do.

Speaker, I'm confident that our new smoking cessation action plan will move us forward toward our goal.

I'm also confident that because of the steps we are taking, more people who use tobacco will try to quit. More people who use tobacco will receive support to quit. More people who are trying to quit will succeed. More health care settings and providers will offer effective, person-centred cessation support. The rates of smoking among groups of Ontarians who have particularly high rates of smoking will decrease. The health gap will close.

The amendment before this House speaks to the regulation of medical marijuana, and my colleague has spoken at great length about the specifics of the proposed legislation already. I want to stress for everyone that this amendment is another critical piece in our overall strategy to protect Ontarians from the dangers of second-hand smoke. Because of the advocacy of people like Heather Crowe and many, many others, we are well aware of the dangers of second-hand tobacco smoke.

Today, we need to take into consideration the potential impact of second-hand smoke from medical marijuana. We all know that the federal government has committed to legalizing marijuana in Canada. Currently, access to medical marijuana is regulated under the federal framework. Individuals who seek to access medical marijuana from a licensed producer require a medical document from a physician.

0930

But our government understands that the federal government is considering changes to marijuana laws. This has heightened public and stakeholder interest in the controls that governments have put in place to protect people from potential public health harms associated with marijuana, be it medical or otherwise. Our government has taken a clear position on this issue. We believe there need to be strict controls in place. That is why I believe the time has come to make some changes to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act that would enable the government to prescribe products and substances other than tobacco that would be subject to the same rules.

Our proposed approach is intended to protect Ontarians, especially children and youth, from exposure to second-hand tobacco and medical marijuana smoke.

Speaker, since taking on my role as associate minister, I have spoken a great deal about the importance of protecting our youth from the dangers of tobacco. We know that children are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke exposure, and the evidence proves that young people are less likely to become regular smokers when they grow up in places with strong tobacco-control laws. We need to do everything in our power to prevent people from taking up smoking in the first place—and if not, then helping those who do smoke to quit, and quit successfully.

We also need to do everything we can to protect all Ontarians from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke, be it from tobacco or medical marijuana.

I am confident that there is significant support for our amendments to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act from public health and tobacco-control stakeholders, as well as most businesses and employers in Ontario.

I am confident that all members in this House can stand behind our proposed legislation that will help make Ontario the healthiest place in North America to grow up and grow old.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Questions and comments? Further debate?

**Mr. Jeff Yurek:** I am going to be sharing my time with the member from Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington.

I'm happy to be here to be speaking to the third reading of Bill 178, the Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act, 2016.

I was at the celebration of the 10-year anniversary of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act a couple of weeks ago. I relayed a story in my speech on just how smoking has changed in this province. I found it quite interesting. I remember in the 1970s, when I was going to the Saturday matinees, there was always this commercial with the two Bic lighters arguing about being allowed to flick their Bic in the theatre. The fact that we had that argument, that people were adamant that they were allowed to smoke during the movies, was quite interesting.

I remember, in the same time, I used to fill in on Sundays when my dad did inventory at the pharmacy. One of my jobs was to take the big ashtray sitting at the dispensary counter and clean it out. It was interesting that you would come into a pharmacy to get your pills to treat heart disease, lung disease, cancer, prostate problems and gout, and maybe be smoking a cigarette while you were waiting.

I remember, even later on, when I was a stock boy—I guess in the mid-1980s—that one of my favourite customers would run out of cash halfway through the month and couldn't smoke. She would be so excited when her monthly cheque came in that she'd cash it and run to our store and buy cigarettes. That's another thing: You could buy cigarettes at a pharmacy. She would sit down in front of the dispensary counter and light up and smoke a couple of cigarettes, just because there was a chair there and she thought she really needed to get her nicotine fix.

I'm glad that in the 1990s, the College of Pharmacists worked to ban smoking in pharmacies. A friend of mine in London, who still practises today, Jim Semchism, owns Ealing Pharmacy. He's just ending his term at the OPA, but he was OCP president at that time. He led the charge. He took a lot of flak for pushing to end sales of tobacco in pharmacies. I think, at the end of the day, it really helped to profile a pharmacy as a health care institution as opposed to more of a convenience store. I'm grateful that that change has happened. Then, in 2006, we had the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, and now here we are with Bill 178 that has come forward.

I mentioned earlier, in second reading, that this bill is really here because the government moved too fast on Bill 45. They rushed it. They didn't consult. That has been the underlying theme: the proper consultations that need to go forward. They missed something in Bill 45 and this bill is a reaction to that, to close up the loophole which has taken the whole spring session to move through the Legislature. We'll hopefully have it passed before we recess.

Unfortunately, we could have had something else to be debating, some other issue that is more pertinent to Ontarians, like dealing with wind turbines and allowing municipalities to have that veto. The survey has come back saying that municipalities and people would like to see them have a veto over where they place the wind turbines.

I know in Dunwich, my area of my riding, they are getting the wind turbines—they didn't ask for them, 84% of them said they don't want the wind turbines; they're getting them. Malahide, which is right beside Dunwich, said, "We'll take the wind turbines," and they didn't get them. We can have more discussion about that, but the fact is that we had to deal with Bill 178 because the government didn't consult and rushed through Bill 45.

Now they're working on regulations with Bill 45 which—I'm hoping they're listening to the vape store owners, the ones who sell the vaporizers for people, to ensure that they're not going to run them out of business with the strict regulations that may come forward. Hopefully they're now consulting on that one. But now we're dealing with Bill 178, which is to close the loophole that was created by this government.

The Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2006, was really brought forward due to Heather Crowe. They talked about her at the 10-year anniversary and the fact that she was a worker who never smoked a day in her life and, due to second-hand smoke—I think it was a restaurant she worked in—developed cancer and she died. That's unfortunate, and smoking in restaurants and bars etc. has ended and hopefully the second-hand smoke that caused those cancers is very much limited.

I remember in my twenties coming home from going out for the night and, in the morning, my clothes smelling of smoke because of the smoking. Nowadays you can go to a restaurant or you can go out for a couple of drinks and come home and that smell isn't on you. I'm a non-smoker so I really do notice the smell of smoke and it's

kind of nice not to have that, so I was pleased to celebrate the Smoke-Free Ontario Act that ensured that I don't have to put up with second-hand smoke while I'm eating my meals. I really appreciate that.

Back to Bill 178: We just finished committee work and debating. If the government did have to bring forth legislation to close that gap because they rushed through and didn't consult, they had the opportunity to make this bill a little tougher and actually deal with the other causes of smoking, the unrecorded smoking, the contraband problem that we have in this province. They talk about how smoking rates have decreased, but they have no real numbers on the amount of people who are just buying contraband and not paying the taxes that they could be collecting. What are the rates of smokers that are smoking contraband tobacco? It's something this government has shied away from dealing with.

Something they don't seem to want to deal with is people purchasing their cigarettes illegally. Who knows what's in the cigarettes to start with, but the fact that the cost of contraband is so much cheaper than buying them at the store because we have high taxes on cigarettes—which is fine with me—is something this government is either afraid to deal with it or doesn't think is important. I think that's terrible.

Contraband cigarettes focus on our children in our high schools because it's cheap. They go to the schools and they sell them by the bags. We need opportunity and we need teeth in legislation to deal with this. Bill 178 was an opportunity to add this into the legislation, something that we could have been supporting 100% and promoting—that we're finally going to deal with the illegal cigarette trade and hopefully decrease smoking that way, but also increase tax into the government because they'll be buying more legal cigarettes, and also deal with illicit activities that are ongoing in this province. That was something that was missed in this legislation.

**0940**

During committee, which we just finished, our party brought forth three amendments. Typically, what happens in this session of the Legislature—this 41st Legislature—this government didn't accept any amendments brought forth by the opposition. It's becoming a theme, and it's quite concerning. You name the bill that we sit through and we seem to have the government side not willing to fix legislation when we bring amendments. We thought our amendments brought forward were going to be helpful in strengthening the bill: to ensure that the definition of a combusted material is in the legislation, to deal with vaping; to ensure the by-products of the combusted material are regulated so we don't have that second-hand smoke. Unfortunately, they didn't want to hear that. They said it was a "redundant" activity, to ensure that we had a difference between what is smoke and what is vapour. On this side of the House, we thought that we needed to have a clear definition of smoke and vapour.

Our second amendment of the act was for section 12.1. We wanted to add that the section does not apply to

the smoking of medical marijuana or to the holding of lighted medical marijuana in a private dwelling; or a vape lounge or compassion lounge that allows for indoor space for individuals to consume medical marijuana.

There's a difference between recreational marijuana and medical marijuana. Medical marijuana is being used as a medicine. It's being used as something that is necessary in the treatment of pain, of epilepsy, fibromyalgia. It's something that people need access to. What we wanted to do at the time is allow those who need the medical marijuana to access it in their homes, to access medical marijuana in compassion lounges that could be set up for these people, that allow them not to be smoking medical marijuana or vaping out in public, but to be inside a safe place in order for them to have their medication. We felt there shouldn't be any restrictions infringing on the rights of individuals to use their medication in their own homes, regardless of their living situation or municipal laws. We also feel that vape lounges or compassion lounges provide a safe space to those who are using medical marijuana to medicate.

We do want to highlight, too—and we did hear from committee that there's a growing number of people who are using marijuana for palliative care. It's a medication with fewer side effects, which is giving them the comfort they need during this terrible time in their life.

Under proper regulation, compassion lounges to allow for the vaping or smoking of medical marijuana could be created to create a safe zone for those people. But the government said the motion can be discussed at the time of regulations. We're hoping that they will have this discussion during regulations, but I don't feel hopeful based on the fact that this government somehow wants to combine recreational marijuana use and medical marijuana use under the same class when in fact it should be separate.

Our third and final amendment for this section of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act was set out in section 4 of the bill. It was:

“Application

“(1.2) Despite clause (1)(a), this section does not apply to the smoking of medical marijuana, or to the holding of medical marijuana, in an enclosed workplace by an employee if an employer who exercises control over the enclosed workplace declares the workplace to be medical-marijuana friendly.”

This amendment basically allowed the option for employers to accommodate the use of medical marijuana by their employees. We would probably be hoping that the employer would allow vaping of the medical marijuana due to the decrease in effects with those in the surroundings. Business owners would have the freedom to decide whether or not they want to accommodate their employees. It wouldn't be forced on the employers, but it would give the business owners the ability to accommodate them.

We did hear from a fibromyalgia sufferer during committee that in fact he was able to return to full-time work for the first time since 2001 because his employer allowed

him to use medical marijuana. It returned someone back to the workforce, who is now completely part of society. He's not away, in pain, in his own house. He is contributing through taxes and he's part of the local economy. It was his employer who gave him that ability to access his medication.

This amendment that we put forward was going to allow that to occur. We wanted to ensure that more people in this province could have the opportunity to have access to their medication and return to a full lifestyle, participating in the local economy. But this government voted that down, and unfortunately, there wasn't much discussion on that issue.

I think, at the end of the day, when the government comes forward and deals with the regulations regarding Bill 178, that they should truly look at medical marijuana, not at the whole use of recreational marijuana. I understand the federal government is going to legalize the product down the road. That definitely needs to be followed under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. But the fact that medical marijuana is a legalized prescription, with growing usage throughout the province through its benefits—we need to ensure that we're not passing laws that are banning the use of medication.

I would imagine, from what I've heard, that we might see a couple of court challenges come forward with regard to this bill, due to the fact that it is going to be restricting use of medical marijuana. Maybe the government can fix it during the regulation creation. But hopefully we don't have to come back again to deal with something that this government, due to lack of consultation, has caused.

We gave some sound amendments which were voted down, and we're sad that happened. I will be supporting this legislation at final reading. I think it's something where we need to close that gap caused by a lack of consultation. I hope the government has learned its lesson. We're ending this session for the spring, we're coming back in the fall, and I know the government has brought forth the Patients First legislation. They had some pre-consultation, although I'm pretty sure the bill was written long before the consultation started. They have the summer to really get out and start talking to Ontarians about health care. I hope they've learned their lesson this time, and hopefully they can go forward and make the proper changes to the legislation to ensure that there is reduced bureaucracy and improved patient care at the end of the day.

We hope that happens. We know there is a bill out about finance reform in this province. The committee is taking their time to tour the province. I'm hoping the government is going to be open to making changes to the legislation they proposed. I hope they actually listen to Ontarians. They didn't really listen to the opposition. They wrote a note on the back of a napkin one day in the Premier's kitchen—but we need to ensure that legislation gets done correctly. Good government has good consultation. We need the government to better itself.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I look forward to my colleague.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I recognize the member for Lanark—Frontenac—Lennox and Addington.

**Mr. Randy Hillier:** Speaker, I've been involved with this bill and I've made my comments known. I think when we actually debate this bill, we have to look at the entirety of the full body of law that this bill affects and how it affects people.

The title of the bill is An Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. I would suggest a more accurate title to this bill would be "An Act to prevent and eliminate harm reduction in the province of Ontario," because that's actually what it will do.

0950

*Interjection.*

**Mr. Randy Hillier:** I see the member for Beaches—East York finds this all very funny. I remember, during the committee hearings, he was laughing and joking when people were describing how they required medicinal marijuana to alleviate the significant pain and suffering they were experiencing, and how this bill would prevent and limit their ability to ease their suffering.

I think that just goes to describe, in my view, Speaker, the lack of comprehension, the lack of understanding, by the Associate Minister of Health and the Liberal caucus on just what this bill does and how it's going to impact people. These are serious. The minister said that her job was to promote wellness. Bill 45 and Bill 178 actually do the exact opposite.

I just want to read a couple of comments. This is one from the CBC from April 28 of this year: "Smokers should be encouraged to use e-cigarettes as a safer alternative, Britain's Royal College of Physicians says in a sharp departure"—a sharp departure.

"Thursday's report is based on expert opinion and concludes the hazards to health from inhaling e-cigarette vapours" provide less harm than smoking tobacco.

Of course, these bills will restrict and prevent the use of vapers.

The authors of the report, Nicotine Without Smoke: Tobacco Harm Reduction, say people smoke because they are addicted to nicotine, but the actual harm is by the tar and the cancer-causing chemicals from the products of combustion.

"It calls smoking the biggest avoidable cause of death and disability and social inequalities in health" in the United Kingdom.

"Previously in Britain, the evidence base for the safety claim of e-cigarettes has been called" extraordinarily flimsy, but also with conflicts of interest.

"E-cigarettes heat liquid, often containing nicotine, into vapour. Use of e-cigarettes or vaping is proposed as a lower-risk alternative...." Speaker, that's harm reduction, reducing the harm.

This is probably the most prestigious anti-smoking group and the most prestigious and recognized group of physicians in the world. This government didn't listen to them in the committee hearings. They didn't listen to the

amendments that were offered by us, and voted them down.

This report, by Professor John Britton of the Royal College of Physicians and his co-authors, goes on: "E-cigarettes and other non-tobacco nicotine products offer the potential radically to reduce harm from smoking in our society. This is an opportunity that should be managed and taken," not prevented.

There has been a host of evidence that was presented to the committees, and all dismissed by the Associate Minister of Health and the Liberal caucus.

Harm reduction is absolutely recognized by our courts. There's no doubt that this bill and Bill 45 will be challenged.

I should just also state for the record, Madam Speaker, that Bill 178 does not actually specify medical marijuana anywhere in it, or any other. It uses the term "prescribed products." Just so that every member of the Liberal bench—and our own over here—understands, this Associate Minister of Health, or any subsequent minister, can prescribe any product as a tobacco product. If they choose to prescribe apples as a tobacco product, they have the lawful authority under Bill 178.

They're using it, as we are told, for medicinal marijuana but there are no limitations on what they can deem to be a tobacco product. It's a very extraordinary and undue use of authority because that would be done by regulation and outside the scrutiny of this Legislature. It's extraordinary, in my view, that they would go to that length to give the minister that broad of latitude to describe anything—anything—as a tobacco product.

That goes back to part of this discussion and part of what the College of Physicians and Surgeons said. This Liberal government still doesn't understand the difference between fog and smoke. Fog is not harmful. It's mist; it's condensation. It is not harmful to people. That's what electronic nicotine delivery systems produce: fog, not smoke. Smoke is a product of combustion. That's where the cancer-causing harm comes from.

It's interesting as well that we're having this debate on Bill 178 at the same time that the federal Parliament is debating Bill C-14, and the Senate is now deliberating on Bill C-14, the result of a Supreme Court decision. That Supreme Court decision, of course, said that our laws must recognize and be consistent with allowing people choices on how they will die, choices to alleviate the pain and suffering, and to allow them to die with dignity. How can it be that this government says, "We will not allow people the choice on how they will live and how they will ease their pain and suffering during their life," when the Supreme Court has said, "We must allow it at end of life"?

I think it's wildly inconsistent with our jurisprudence and with our rulings of the court that Bill 178 and Bill 45 will be allowed to stand for any period of time. We've seen this. The Liberal Party heard this during the debate on Bill 115 with the teachers' unions and the undue restriction and the elimination of collective bargaining rights with Bill 115 a couple of years ago. Of course,

earlier this year, the courts struck down Bill 115 as unconstitutional.

People should learn from their mistakes. This Liberal government ought to learn from their mistakes. They ought to listen to people—listen to experts, but listen to people—and make their laws consistent with our expectations and make them consistent with our Charter of Rights and our Constitution.

I want to just quote a statement from Douglas Elliott. Doug Elliott is a renowned lawyer. He's been involved in a number of constitutional challenges. He has been well regarded and well understood to be an expert on constitutional challenges. He describes Bill 178 and Bill 45 regulations as "arbitrary and draconian" and says, "I find them the most severe than any other product in Ontario," and is confident that a charter challenge will be launched under section 7.

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Speaker, the government could have prevented what will undoubtedly, invariably, end up as a challenge by listening to and enacting the amendments we offered in committee.

We did offer up in committee an amendment that businesses would be able to designate themselves as a medicinal-marijuana-friendly business and allow medicinal marijuana users to use their prescriptions in a less harmful fashion in their workplace. That could have been done. The minister chose not to. Again, just for the record, there is no evidence that vapour causes any second-hand consequences or negatives. It is not harmful.

They could have allowed people who are suffering the dignity to continue to work but take their prescription in a less harmful fashion by way of vaping. But they chose not to. They dismissed it. We're not sure what the regulations are actually going to look like. They may end up deeming apples and oranges as tobacco products in the workplace as well. Who knows? We do know that it is their intent.

I want to expand on this a little bit. I've heard the discussion, from all sides of the House, at second reading and at third reading, and it's interesting: In every presentation, every debate, people speak of the days when people smoked cigarettes in cinemas or on airplanes or—

**Mr. Taras Natyshak:** In the Legislature.

**Mr. Randy Hillier:** —or in the Legislature. But that's long gone. We have ended those practices. People don't do that anymore. This bill may have been justified back in those days, but that is not how our society conducts itself now. We do not see people attempting to smoke joints on our transit systems. We do not see people smoking joints in our restaurants and bars. That just doesn't happen.

Actually, I've challenged and I've asked for any evidence that the Liberal government may have to suggest that this is a problem, that there is a wide group of people using their medicinal marijuana out in public places. Of course, there is no evidence, but they're going to prevent you from using it anywhere in this province—in your

workplace, even when that workplace and the people who work with you deem it to be an acceptable practice.

Think of the person in a hospice or somebody in palliative care who wants to alleviate their pain and suffering and use an electronic nicotine delivery system that doesn't produce harmful side effects. They want to alleviate their pain and the hospice or palliative care institution says, "No, that's unlawful. We can't allow you to lessen your pain. You'll have to crawl or find your way outside somewhere, nine metres beyond the door of that hospice, to alleviate your pain." I think it's an incredible and undue hardship that this government is placing on people who are suffering.

Also, taking away and restricting the ability for people to actually reduce their addiction to nicotine and to reduce the harm that they're experiencing—I would think that if this minister was serious about promoting wellness, was serious about helping people to not smoke, they would focus their attention on contraband tobacco and prevent the truckloads of cheap, smuggled tobacco from coming into our schoolyards. That would be a tangible and effective way to help people.

However, this government will not tackle the real problems. Maybe I'll just put this in context for everyone, Speaker. The only reason why we have Bill 178 in front of us, and why it's at third reading right now, is because of the ill-chosen words of the Associate Minister of Health after Bill 45, when she went out and said people will be free to smoke joints anywhere now. That's what her words were.

The Premier quickly went into damage control over those ill-chosen and false statements by the associate minister, and Bill 178 is the result of those ill-chosen words by the associate minister. An attack on harm reduction is now the Liberal damage control for those ill-chosen words.

There are countless studies. I would encourage the members on the Liberal bench, if they are so inclined to be informed and to be knowledgeable before they cast their votes on third reading, to actually look at Hansard.

Linda Bauld, a professor at the University of Stirling and deputy director at the UK Centre for Tobacco and Alcohol Studies, in another co-authored report, states, "This is what harm reduction is—it reduces the harm from tobacco while recognizing that some people will still use nicotine in other safer forms."

"The anti-smoking group ASH UK welcomed the report, saying it showed 'that switching to vaping is a positive and sensible life choice' for smokers."

Why is this government taking away that positive and sensible life choice for smokers? Why are they condemning tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of people to continue their addiction in the most harmful fashion that is known, using products of combustion, and not encouraging people to do less harm to themselves?

Bill 178 could have been amended and ought to have been amended, but it will be amended, if not by this Legislature then by the courts. It will be struck down.

I, for one, will not vote in favour of a bill that condemns people to greater harm, to greater misery, to great-

er pain instead of alleviating it. I will not be supporting Bill 178.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate? I recognize the member from Nickel Belt.

**M<sup>me</sup> France G  linas:** I will start the five minutes of my hour lead, I would say, pretty much similarly to what my colleagues have done so far. It's really to say that Bill 178 is one more example of the Liberal government who refuses to listen, the Liberal government who is so convinced that they know it all. They are Liberal, therefore they make no mistakes. All they need to do is talk to one another and the truth with a capital T shows up.

Well, they are wrong. We just dealt with this bill. We brought forward amendments; all of them were turned down. If they had taken time to listen we would not be here, going through all of this first and second reading—all of this to change four words in a bill: "and other prescribed substances." That's all that bill does. It changes four words in an existing bill that we worked on for a year. But through all of that time, it didn't matter what we said. They had their talking points, and that's all they kept giving us.

I don't understand. We are all elected from all 107 ridings throughout this province. We all come here to try to make Ontario a better place. We are legislators. We work on bills. I read my bills. I do my homework. I bring provisions forward that make sense, and so do my colleagues, but it doesn't matter. They refuse to listen. And what happens when you refuse to listen, Speaker? You make mistakes.

Bill 178: All it is is a correction of a mistake. I hope they learn from this. I hope that we get something of value out of all of this time, effort and energy that we have put to bring Bill 178 to where it is now. If there's something to be learned, it's that you have two ears and one mouth. Listen twice as much as you speak and we will all be ahead of where we are now. Even Liberal members have two ears and one mouth. They should listen twice as much as they speak, and we would all be further ahead than where we are now.

In the meantime, harm was done. It's not going to be the Liberal members who will pay for that harm. It will be the small businesses who took a bill that we had modified and said, "Well, the Smoke-Free Ontario Act has been modified. Here's what it is right now, so I will open up my business." They invested their own money, they borrowed, they did renovations; they opened businesses throughout our province, and now all of them are facing uncertainty. All of them are facing a future where they don't know if their personal savings are all going to be gone. All of them are facing a future where their small business has a good chance of not being allowed in Ontario anymore. Why? Because the Liberals refused to listen and put a bill forward that had mistakes in it.

Now all of those good people throughout Ontario who followed the process—and believe me, Speaker, there were hundreds of people, thousands of people, who followed this process. I have never seen such a broad-based engagement as when we did modifications to the Smoke-

Free Ontario Act last year. People who had never paid attention to the legislative process were involved, wrote letters, sent us emails, came as deputants—hundreds of them. Hundreds? Thousands of them got involved in that process. You could ask the Clerk who was in charge: The number of phone calls that she was receiving at the time was just phenomenal.

But it didn't matter how many people wanted to speak. It didn't matter how many people reached out to them. They were Liberal members. They knew better than anybody else, and they refused to listen. And because they refused to listen, we are here today looking at third reading.

I can see that you're about to stand up, so I will keep the rest of my lead for tomorrow. Thank you, Speaker.

*Third reading debate deemed adjourned.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Seeing it's almost 10:15, we'll recess the House until 10:30.

*The House recessed from 1014 to 1030.*

## SPECIAL REPORT, AUDITOR GENERAL

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I beg to inform the House that today I have laid upon the table a special report from the Auditor General of Ontario on the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** I'm very pleased to welcome to the Legislature today Anne and Lloyd McIntyre, who are here from the Acton area. Welcome to the Ontario Legislature.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** I'm pleased to welcome the students and staff and teachers of Markstay Public School. I don't think they're in the gallery yet, but I'm pleased to welcome them to Queen's Park.

**Mrs. Laura Albanese:** It's with great pleasure that I welcome to Queen's Park Brandon Machado. He's a resident of the great riding of York South-Weston, and he's here with us today to celebrate the Portuguese flag-raising that will be held on the front lawn at 3 p.m.

**Mr. Randy Pettapiece:** I would like to introduce Lisa Sommers and Doris Walter Schachter. They will be joining me for lunch today at Queen's Park.

**Miss Monique Taylor:** I'm pleased to welcome today to the Legislature Nancy and her son and daughter, Leo and Siena Marchese, who are here to shadow me today at Queen's Park.

**Hon. Reza Moridi:** It's a great pleasure to welcome Ms. Fattaneh Jalali, Ms. Laurinda Da Cruz and Ms. Zarine Dordi from the Working Women Community Centre to the Ontario Legislature. Welcome.

**Ms. Jennifer K. French:** I'm pleased to welcome the family of Mr. Clifford George Pilkey attending today's tribute: his son, Allan Pilkey, former MPP and cabinet minister; his daughter, Jackie Zaika; and his grand-

children, John Pilkey and Jane Pilkey. Welcome to the Legislature.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I thank the member for that pre-introduction.

The member from Scarborough—Agincourt.

**Ms. Soo Wong:** I would like to welcome page Sulin Fletcher's father, Derek Fletcher, here in the gallery. On behalf of the member from Scarborough Southwest, welcome to Queen's Park.

**Mr. Grant Crack:** It gives me great pleasure to introduce a friend of mine, Beckie Codd-Downey, and wish her, on behalf of all the colleagues here, a wonderful happy birthday.

**Ms. Sylvia Jones:** Today, we have, from St. Benedict Elementary School in Orangeville, two grade 8 classes joining us, including the 2016 Girls' Government participants.

**Ms. Jennifer K. French:** I'm pleased to welcome Yvonne Laurent, who will be joining us today from the Workers Health and Safety Centre.

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** On behalf of my colleague the MPP from Eglinton—Lawrence, the great Mike Colle, I would like to welcome to the House the mother of page captain Nava Wu, Andrea Gershon, and her father, Rob Wu. Welcome to our Legislature.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** On behalf of the MPP for Halton, I want to welcome the family of page captain Alexandra Wu: her mother, Iris Bagchi-Wu; father, Christopher Wu; sisters Jacqueline and Katarina Wu; brother Nathan Wu; and aunt Cassandra Wu. We welcome them to Queen's Park.

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** It is a great pleasure to introduce in the Legislature, on behalf of the Ottawa caucus, some good friends of ours from the Élisabeth Bruyère centre: Amy Porteous and Dave Levac. Thank you—David Levac—

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Daniel Levac.

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** Daniel Levac, sorry.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I've learned how to bilocate.

Further introductions?

**Ms. Indira Naidoo-Harris:** Mr. Speaker, I apologize for not being in here a little earlier. I would like to introduce family members of Halton's Alexandra Wu, who is page captain today. I'd like to welcome to the House Iris Bagchi-Wu, Jacqueline Wu, Nathan Wu, Katarina Wu, Christopher Wu, Marion Wu and Cassandra Wu.

Welcome to Queen's Park. It's great to have you here.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I would entertain the member from Simcoe—Grey on a point of order.

**Mr. Jim Wilson:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe you'll find that we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice regarding late shows.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The opposition House leader is seeking unanimous consent to put for-

ward a motion without notice regarding late shows. Do we agree? Agreed.

Member?

**Mr. Jim Wilson:** I move that, following completion of consideration of the private bills today, the motion to adjourn the House shall be deemed to have been made, and the late shows standing in the names of the members for Haldimand—Norfolk and Kitchener—Conestoga shall then be conducted, following which the Speaker shall deem the motion to adjourn to be carried and shall adjourn the House.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Wilson moves that, following completion of consideration of the private bills today, the motion to adjourn the House shall be deemed to have been made—

**Interjection:** Dispense.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Dispense? Dispensed.

Carried? Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

## VISITORS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Today in the west members' gallery, we have the former MPP for Guelph in the 35th Parliament, Mr. Derek Fletcher. Welcome, Derek.

As is the custom, if you would please join me in welcoming, for our tribute, the family of the late Mr. Clifford George Pilkey, MPP for Oshawa during the 28th Parliament, who are seated in the Speaker's gallery: his daughter, Jackie Zaika; his son, Allan Pilkey; and his grandson, John Pilkey, and granddaughter, Jane Pilkey.

Allan Pilkey served as the MPP for Oshawa, and a cabinet minister, during the 35th Parliament.

We welcome the family here today for the tribute.

Also in the Speaker's gallery to help pay tribute is former Speaker of the House David Warner. Welcome, Mr. Speaker.

## CLIFFORD PILKEY

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The deputy House leader on a point of order.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** Mr. Speaker, I believe you will find we have unanimous consent to pay tribute to Clifford George Pilkey, former member for Oshawa, with a representative from each caucus speaking for up to five minutes.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The deputy House leader seeks unanimous consent to pay tribute. Do we agree? Agreed.

Deputy House leader.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I'm deeply honoured to have the opportunity to pay tribute to Cliff Pilkey, who was a member of the Legislature of Ontario from 1967 to 1971.

I first met Cliff when he was the president of the Ontario Federation of Labour. You know these things you see in front of us called microphones? Cliff Pilkey

did not need a microphone, I assure you of that. No matter where he was, whether he was in a union hall, whether he was in the Ontario Legislature or whether he was out front addressing a group, Clifford had a booming voice, and he knew exactly what he was going to say.

What he brought to this Legislature was a background in the trade union movement, in the labour movement, which was well known. He started out, as many members of this House over the years have, in the labour movement as a committee man. It was called a “committee man” at that time. It would be a “committee person” at the present time. He made his way up to secretary-treasurer, and then president of Local 222 of what was known as the UAW back when he started out and then became the CAW over the years.

He was very prominent in the local labour movement as well, on the local labour council, but also provincially, as I mentioned, with the Ontario Federation of Labour, and also internationally, because he attended some international and national conferences, where he presented the viewpoint of those in the labour movement eloquently and with a good deal of force.

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He was genuinely committed, and that was reflected when he was in the Legislature as the labour critic for the New Democratic Party at that time, with the government of Ontario looking at various pieces of legislation and what should be done. Cliff brought forward the point of view of labour very forcefully.

He was particularly interested, as we are on an ongoing basis, in people who are injured in industrial accidents. He campaigned locally, provincially and nationally for legislation, regulations and policies which would be designed to eliminate the risk, if possible, but certainly to significantly reduce the risk of accidents happening in the workplace. He saw the consequences of those accidents: the lives that were profoundly adversely affected by accidents that happen in the workplace, and sometimes fatalities—of course, that was devastating for the families—but also ongoing injuries which prevented people from leading the kinds of lives they would have liked to have led.

He was also looking for other changes to labour legislation because, if you recall a number of years back, labour legislation wasn't as progressive as it is across the country today in terms of the reflection of the views of working people in the workplace and in our society.

When Cliff was a member of city council, which he was in the city of Oshawa, he again reflected those views and tried to do what he could at the local level, asking the council to advocate on behalf of those who were in the industrial base of Oshawa and who worked in various jobs there, but he was also committed to the community at large.

Certainly he saw that the union could play a role in conjunction with government, holding unemployed help centres, for instance, for people who were devastated when they lost their job, particularly for a long-term loss of job. Cliff knew that while it wasn't the best of the

worlds, it was good to have an unemployed help centre, and also a health and safety centre that the union would be operating—sometimes in conjunction with government; sometimes independently. That viewpoint had to be presented to this Legislature.

If you look back on the Legislature over the years, in years way back there were not that many people who came from the labour movement. In fact, they were mostly business people, lawyers and professionals. What Cliff brought was an unapologetic and enthusiastic approach to issues which affected people who were working on the line, people who were in various workplaces in the province of Ontario.

He was a person who was interesting to meet. He could be very forceful in debate, whether in this House or in some other venue. But he was also a person who, at the end of the debate, at the end of the discussion, at the end of the rally, could shake hands with people and be very cordial to people as well. He came across as very forceful, but there was a compassionate part to Cliff Pilkey that I think all of us who knew him in one way or other will remember.

His son, Allan, was a member of this Legislature as well. One quick story I will tell you will show you how committed he was to the trade union movement. Allan said that when he told stories to the family at night, when the kids were going to bed, instead of saying “once upon a time,” he would say “once upon a time-and-a-half,” which reflected his need for overtime to be paid appropriately.

We thank the family of Cliff Pilkey for being here today. The people of Oshawa appreciated his representation not only in this House, not only on their council, but in various organizations within the community and certainly in the trade union movement. He will stand out as an icon and a strong defender of labour throughout his lifetime—as he did—and well beyond the years in which he was on this earth.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further tribute?

**Mr. Lorne Coe:** I'm honoured today, on behalf of the Ontario PC caucus, to pay tribute to the late Cliff Pilkey, who died at 90 years of age on November 17, 2012.

Cliff Pilkey was a genuinely passionate man whose early life forged his later political career. He was born into poverty. His mother was a chambermaid and his father a blacksmith. At 13 years old, Cliff dropped out of school to take a job on the boys' line at General Motors in Oshawa. He was a line worker there in 1937, when Premier Mitch Hepburn sent a 400-unit militia to the Oshawa plant in an effort to break up a wildcat strike. The action failed, but surely that episode led Cliff to add to his young resumé and helped drive him to the political activism that followed.

Cliff Pilkey only served one term in the Legislature, from 1967 to 1971, but his was a lifetime of advocacy and achievement. In 1962, the Ontario Human Rights Code barred discrimination on the basis of colour, race, creed and national origin, but did not include gender. In 1969, a newly formed UAW Local 222 women's committee ap-

proached their MPP, Cliff Pilkey, convincing him to present a bill outlawing discrimination in employment. A year and a half later, Bill 83, An Act to Prevent Discrimination in Employment because of Sex or Marital Status, passed into law. This was followed by an amendment to the Human Rights Code in Ontario.

Cliff became president of the Ontario Federation of Labour in 1976 and remained with the organization for a decade. While there, he created six affirmative action seats on the Ontario Federation of Labour board and, in the mid-1980s, he established a position for that organization's first full-time female officer.

He also led campaigns against racism, which ultimately led to a more inclusionary executive at the Ontario Federation of Labour. The slogan at the time was "Racism Hurts Everyone," but Cliff Pilkey turned that phrase into action.

In 1985, Cliff founded the Workers Health and Safety Centre in Toronto. He was convinced that successful training could only be accomplished by workers for workers, free of government or employer influence.

Ed Broadbent, the former leader of the federal New Democratic Party, described Cliff as a "happy warrior." He was never a down person, always standing at the front of issues and never leading from behind.

As confirmed by my friend Oshawa regional councillor Nester Pidwerbecki, at 5 foot 4, Cliff was short in stature, but when he spoke he spoke with passion, and he could bellow with the best. Speaker, if he was in the Legislature today, you'd have no difficulty isolating him during question period.

He was a mentor to Ed Broadbent, who described him as an intelligent man, deeply committed. Cliff told Mr. Broadbent at one time to stop boring people with academic rhetoric.

Cliff Pilkey was a principled individual, not driven by convention. At an Ontario Federation of Labour conference in the early 1980s, at a time when the labour movement was still an old boys' club and when issues important to women were being marginalized, Cliff gave a great, impassioned monologue and discussion filled with passion on women's issues. He was not afraid of controversy because he was never concerned about taking a position that matched his value system. Doing the convenient thing was not a driver for Cliff Pilkey; doing the right thing certainly was.

I recall meeting him only once, when the Michael Starr Building was opened on King Street in Oshawa. At that time, I was a civil servant with the Ontario Ministry of Revenue in the communications branch. That meeting with Cliff, although very brief, made a lasting impression on me.

Whatever one's political beliefs, we could all learn a lot by studying the character and actions of this vibrant, caring and contributing leader. Thanks to his son and his family for sharing him with us and for the difference that Clifford George Pilkey made in the lives of thousands of people in this province. God rest his soul.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further tribute?

**Ms. Jennifer K. French:** It is my honour to stand today and pay tribute to Clifford Pilkey on behalf of Ontario's New Democrats. I would like to first welcome some of Cliff's family to the Legislature. Welcome to his daughter, Jackie Zaika, his son and former NDP MPP and minister, Allan Pilkey, and his grandchildren, John and Jane Pilkey. And we know that family and friends are watching this morning in Oshawa and across the province.

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As we have heard, Cliff leaves behind a legacy of powerful change, change that broke down barriers, that opened doors and invited people through; change that strengthened the labour movement and workers' rights, that strengthened health and safety across the province and that challenged racism and long held-ideas about women's rights.

Today, we will remember and start at the beginning. Viola Pilkey remembered those humble beginnings. Clifford George Pilkey was one of nine children and came from one of the poorest families in Oshawa. When he was young, his father would take him to Memorial Park in Oshawa, in the 1930s, when the Depression was on, and he listened to diverse ideas and opinions at a speaker's corner, ideas that would no doubt influence his own thinking.

When the union came to Canada, Cliff was selling papers on the corner. He used to sell the Toronto Star at the Four Corners during the strike. Apparently, with his big, signature voice, he would sing to sell his papers. Cliff left school before the end of grade 9 and worked in the north plant on the boys' line at General Motors. He worked until the war came, and then he served in the Canadian Armed Forces from 1942 until the end of the war. He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 43, in Oshawa for 62 years.

After the war, Cliff came back to work at General Motors and was involved in union leadership at Local 222. By 1957, he was the president of the Canadian UAW council and served for a decade as president of the Oshawa and District Labour Council. He was elected in 1962 as an Oshawa alderman and deputy mayor and, in 1967, was elected to the provincial Legislature. Cliff was elected to Queen's Park and served as the MPP for Oshawa from 1967 to 1971. He ran against a Tory incumbent and won and started his very effective term here in this Legislature. He was the labour critic for the NDP and was successful in advancing workers' rights and getting strong labour legislation through.

Cliff Pilkey was always known for having, as we've heard, a robust and booming voice. Stephen Lewis, who was then the leader of Ontario's New Democrats, said that most members who needed to speak to their constituents would pick up the phone, but when Cliff Pilkey wanted to speak to his constituents in Oshawa, all he had to do was open a window in his Queen's Park office and speak directly to them.

But Cliff's voice was not only loud, it was strong and true. Cliff had a respect for others and they, a respect for

him. He used to say of Bill Davis that they went to their respective corners and bashed the heck out of each other, but they did really get along. Bill Davis said that he and Cliff Pilkey respected one another, that they really did have fun together, even though Cliff was “philosophically challenged.”

After Queen’s Park, Cliff continued to represent the people of Oshawa and workers in Ontario. After another term as alderman, he served as president of the Ontario Federation of Labour from 1976 until he retired in 1986. In 1978, Cliff helped labour win the passage of Bill 70, Ontario’s Occupational Health and Safety Act. He knew that workers and workplace representatives would need comprehensive training after the passage of that bill. His strong leadership and advocacy resulted in a workers’ training centre known still as the Workers Health and Safety Centre, which continues to lead on health and safety issues. The WHSC is a living tribute to his dedication to health and safety issues and his commitment to the workers of Ontario.

Cliff was also a powerful voice in championing women’s rights and human rights. In 1982, he made a legendary speech at an OFL convention full of union brothers who weren’t quite ready to see reproductive rights as a labour issue. He stood firmly behind his principles to support the women delegates. He was a real and sincere fighter for women’s rights. Cliff saw injustice and saw ways to challenge it. Also, under Cliff Pilkey’s leadership, for the first time in the Canadian labour movement, there was a comprehensive campaign against racism that engaged and challenged the broader public. Over 30 years later, we’re still undertaking this vital work. Cliff Pilkey’s legacy endures.

Since his passing, there have been some very special tributes: The Canadian Civil Liberties Association presented a special recognition award, Unifor named a change-maker bursary, and the OFL established the biennial Cliff Pilkey Awards dinner and labour activist award. The city of Oshawa named a 2.5-kilometre part of the Waterfront Trail with a plaque, in tribute to his service, contributions and achievements in the Oshawa community. Cliff was awarded the Canadian Centennial Medal in 1967, was inducted into the Order of Ontario in 1990, and was awarded the Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

There is an extensive public record of Cliff’s accomplishments and legacy, but I would like to thank the family who shared some special pieces and stories that can’t be found online. His character and life lessons clearly influenced both of his children, who have also pursued paths of service and have had a dynamic and measurable impact in their communities.

Cliff was a wonderful dad. He appreciated the simplicity of life and he never lived life “heavy.” He took life and its challenges seriously and could fight to the end with the best of them and worked to win—but at the end of the day, it’s life.

There were lessons to be learned, but there were always songs to sing. He was apparently a phenomenal

singer. Even until he passed at the age of 90, he still found reasons to sing.

As Ed Broadbent recalled, “He was the ultimate happy warrior. No matter what the struggles were you never saw him down, he was a sort of up-at-’em kind of guy and always at the front of the parade, not at the back.”

He inspired and taught people to be activists, advocates, leaders and change-makers. He would say, “Don’t lose heart because your life and your efforts are at the embryo stage. Be strong and stay on course and let it grow and let it blossom. Stay true. Never lose heart.” Cliff Pilkey was not a man of few words but instead he was a man of powerful and resonant words.

Thank you to Cliff’s family and thank you to Cliff Pilkey for staying the course and making it broader, safer and fairer for everyone after. Ontario is better for the commitment and legacy of Cliff Pilkey.

*Applause.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I’d like to thank all members for their heartfelt and kind words in tribute to Cliff Pilkey.

We would also like to tell the family that, as a token of our esteem and our affection for Cliff, we will provide you with a copy of Hansard and a DVD to ensure that you have a keepsake of Cliff Pilkey. Thank you for the gift of your father.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### ENERGY POLICIES

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. Today, the Premier backpedalled on her reckless climate change plan. She now says she won’t ban natural gas. Yet every time we ask about changes to the building code, the Premier dodges and deflects. Now we’re hearing of the new net-zero carbon homes, which the Minister of the Environment can’t even define.

Mr. Speaker, it is practically impossible to heat your home without natural gas and be net zero on emissions, unless you live in the base of a wind turbine. Knowing that, will the Premier admit this is just Liberal spin on phasing out natural gas?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** I was very proud to be with our Minister of Energy, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, the Minister of Economic Development, and the Minister of Transportation today to announce and reveal the climate change action plan, to put more details into the public realm so that people can understand how we are going to tackle climate change.

On this side of the House, the discussion is not about whether we tackle climate change. That’s the discussion that’s being held on the other side of the House. On this side of the House, we are tackling climate change, and we’re doing it for now and for generations to come.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Supplementary?

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Excuse me. Stop. Please.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Mr. Speaker, again to the Premier: Ontario's hydro rates are skyrocketing, forcing many families to turn to natural gas to heat their homes. The Premier's solution to this? Just raise natural gas prices higher than electricity. Sure, you may be able to keep a natural gas stove or barbecue, but heating your home with natural gas will no longer be an option.

On top of that, the average net-zero home, according to Natural Resources Canada, can cost \$150,000 more than the average home today.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Excuse me. Stop the clock. The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the member from Scarborough North and the Minister of Energy, come to order.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Etobicoke North. Thank you.

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**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Obviously, the government doesn't like it when facts get in the way of their spin. Natural Resources Canada says that a net-zero-energy home can cost \$150,000 more.

My question to the Premier is, where does she expect homebuyers to find another \$150,000?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** I would say this to the Leader of the Opposition: Where does he expect any of us to find another planet to live on?

The reality is that we have got to tackle climate change. If he turns around and asks his colleague behind him—there was a group of grade 5 students from Chester public school at the announcement this morning. They're all studying climate change, and they know that it is up to us to take action.

So it's up to us to help homeowners and renters reduce their emissions, to use less energy and to save more money through home energy retrofits.

It's up to us to help reduce pollution by investing in transit and electric vehicle incentives—that's what our plan does—and to support businesses, industries and manufacturers to be competitive and to develop the technologies that are going to reduce their carbon—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

Final supplementary.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Again to the Premier: Let's recap. A new home: That's now going to cost you \$150,000 more. To heat that home, it's going to cost you \$3,000 more. But don't worry, the Premier assures us these costs will lead to business growth in Ontario.

Well, Mr. Speaker, wrong again. The money generated from cap-and-trade will see businesses send—hear this—\$300 million to California by 2020, and another \$3 billion to California by 2030.

Why does the Premier want to make life more unaffordable for families and businesses in Ontario? Everyone in this House wants to combat climate change, but no one in Ontario supports a radical, ideologically driven approach.

Will you do the right thing and make Ontario more affordable?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Yesterday the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change and I were at a green building conference. There were construction companies, developers and builders from all around the world. There were companies from Europe, from the Caribbean, from the States—all over the world—because these are builders who have technologies ready, who are looking for jurisdictions where there's a framework in place where they can build the kinds of efficient homes and buildings that they're capable of building. They are very, very eager to do that work here in Ontario.

When the Leader of the Opposition talks about ideology, the ideology that we're fighting in this Legislature is an ideology that says that climate change isn't a problem; do nothing; don't take action; don't look at the costs of climate change; just sit on your hands.

That's not what we're going to do, Mr. Speaker. We're moving forward—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

New question.

## SCHOOL FACILITIES

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** My question is for the Premier. Since I can't get an answer on sending \$3 billion to California, let's talk about education.

A Ministry of Education document reads: "Ultimately, a school's condition reflects the state of commitment of one generation to the advancement of the next."

That sounds right, but if that's true, this government isn't making a very strong commitment to Ontario's students. Across the province, schools have fallen into disrepair. In fact, Ontario has a capital repair backlog of \$15 billion. What kind of commitment is that?

Mr. Speaker, how many more years will students have to learn and teachers have to teach in our crumbling schools? We must do better. Will the Premier commit to that?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** I know the Minister of Education is going to want to comment, but I want to just assure the member opposite that we have been investing and we'll continue to invest in school upgrades.

Since 2003, \$13 billion has resulted in nearly 755 new schools and more than 720 additions and renovations around the province. The commitment going forward is \$11 billion to help build new schools and to renovate.

That commitment is a real commitment. You can look at the record of the building and the renovation that

we've done in order to measure the impact that we will have going forward—\$11 billion over the next 10 years. We recognize that the condition of schools is very important. We'll continue to make those investments.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Chief government whip, come to order.

Supplementary?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Back to the Premier: This government may believe that a \$15-billion repair backlog is acceptable and justify it with their spin, but the reality is that the government isn't doing enough.

Just listen to what the grassroots organization Fix Our Schools had to say: "Classrooms that are 10 degrees to 12 degrees in the winter are not an anomaly across the province." And in the "spring and fall, on a third floor in an old building, it wouldn't be uncommon to be in excess of 30 degrees—certainly not optimum learning conditions." Ceiling tiles are mouldy and collapsing. That's from this grassroots organization. Are these conditions that set our children up for success? Absolutely not. We need to have the proper schools.

The Premier can't blame this on local school boards. She was the former Minister of Education. Why has the Premier turned a blind eye to the state of disrepair of far too many of Ontario's schools?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Education.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** I'm pleased to respond to this question. We currently are in a \$1.25-billion program over three years to address school renewal and school repairs. In addition to that \$1.25 billion that is specifically for school repairs—

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** So that's less than 10% of the problem. And that doesn't include the—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Renfrew, come to order.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** In addition to that money, we actually also have a \$750-million school consolidation fund that helps school boards to maintain the schools that remain open after a round of school closures. They can actually renovate, build additions, replace or renew. We've had a massive investment in school safety and conditions.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Back to the Premier: The Minister of Education brags that they have a \$15-billion problem and they're going to deal with 7% of it. How about all those students in those schools where there's mould and disrepair?

Let me share a story: There was a six-year-old child who received a concussion because she was going to the washroom in her school and the washroom door fell on her. Auditorium ceilings have collapsed during school hours, putting students at risk. John English Junior Middle School in Etobicoke is home to 900 students; the school is in critical condition and needs \$20 million in repairs.

Listen to what a student from Runnymede Public School had to say: "Some kids have to wear their winter coats in class while, for others, their classrooms are so hot it's hard to learn. Our bathrooms don't have locks so you can't have privacy." That's from a student.

How can the Premier expect children to learn while they shiver and are forced to wear winter coats in the classroom? Will the Premier commit to dealing with the huge list, the backlog of \$15 billion to fix our schools?

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** I must comment that if a hinge on a bathroom door needs fixing, then the caretaker should probably fix the hinge on the door.

You mentioned schools in Toronto, so let's talk specifically about the Toronto District School Board. The school condition improvement allocation, which is based on average school condition in particular boards, has increased by four times. We've quadrupled the number from \$29 million to \$112 million. That's a massive increase.

We have directed every school board in Ontario to use the proceeds of disposition when they sell one school site to pay for the renewal and repair of their remaining sites, which actually gives school boards a significant cash inflow that they have control over on their own.

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## MERCURY POISONING

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My question is for the Premier. The final report into the mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows was released publicly a week and a half ago. It says that high levels of mercury in Grassy Narrows' Wabigoon River suggest there may be an ongoing source of mercury in the system. The government has had this report since April. Will the Premier tell Ontarians whether the government is aware of any sources of ongoing mercury contamination in Grassy Narrows?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs is going to want to comment. But I had the opportunity to attend the beginning of a meeting that the minister had with scientists from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change and from his own ministry with the chief from Grassy Narrows. So I had the opportunity to meet with the chief and one of his colleagues.

We are very serious about looking at the recommendations in the report, making sure that we are doing everything in our power. I had an opportunity to talk to Chief Fobister and to say to him that when I went to Grassy Narrows and I talked to the scientists about the mercury that's in the sediment in the lake and in the river, at that point there was no knowledge of increased mercury or ongoing mercury poisoning. If that is the case, we need to discover what that is and we need to look at whether there are ways that it can be cleaned up, as I said, without doing further damage.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Perhaps the Premier can tell Ontarians, then, whether the government is actually mon-

itoring the water in the Wabigoon River so they know definitively whether or not there is new mercury contamination in the Wabigoon River in Grassy Narrows?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

**Hon. David Zimmer:** As the Premier said, yesterday afternoon, I and my assistant deputy minister, scientists from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change along with the minister himself, Minister Murray, met with Chief Fobister and one of his officials. We had an agenda of some five items. This mercury pollution issue was obviously one of those items on the agenda. As a result of that meeting, I have committed to going to Grassy Narrows on June 27. I will be accompanied by Minister Murray. We will also be accompanied by a number of Ontario scientists. Having spoken to the Minister of Health, Minister Hoskins, this morning—he is attempting to rearrange his schedule so he can come to Grassy Narrows also.

We take this issue very seriously. That's why the Premier and three ministers have met with the chief and will continue—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** To date, this Premier has refused to accept all of the scientific evidence that shows that mercury in Grassy Narrows can be cleaned up. In the meantime, the people of Grassy Narrows and the children of Grassy Narrows First Nation continue to get sick and continue to worry.

It is time to accept the truth. It is time to begin some action on reconciliation. It has been decades. This government has been in power for over a decade. The question is: When will this Premier begin the cleanup of Grassy Narrows and the Wabigoon River?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Minister?

**Hon. David Zimmer:** Minister Murray.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

**Hon. Glen R. Murray:** The report—the very good report—we received talks about the need for an immediate field study, in addition to the ongoing monitoring that the scientists in the Ministry of the Environment have been doing both on fish and water.

Minister Zimmer, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and I met with the chief. We tabled a comprehensive 12-month plan for full field studies and to be able to determine how the mercury could be extracted without causing additional harm to people and to the environment. We agreed that the First Nations and Chief Fobister would make those decisions with the support of both ministries.

As Minister Zimmer said, we have a follow-up meeting with our team of scientists and we will be up there working under the leadership of the First Nations, providing them with all of the resources they need to properly act on and solve this problem, Mr. Speaker.

## HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My next question is also for the Premier. For weeks, the Premier and her ministers have denied the crisis in health care instead of fixing it. Ontarians need health care that they can count on, not a press release, not a commercial that says everything is fine.

When will this Premier stop denying that Ontario's hospitals need more than \$3 billion in critical maintenance and get on with the job of fixing the hospitals?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** We recognize that there needs to be continuing and ongoing investment in health care. That's why there's more than \$1 billion in our most recent budget, including \$345 million for hospitals. That's why there's an \$11 billion—

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** \$12 billion.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** —\$12 billion in 10 years—sorry, I'm getting the 12 and 11 between education and health care, Mr. Speaker, because we're investing in both health care and education. So the \$12 billion over 10 years that we are investing in the bricks and mortar of hospitals—we fully recognize that those investments need to be made. That's why we've made the commitment of the dollars.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** This Liberal government is in denial in terms of the mess that the health care system is in in this province. If you take your loved one to a hospital, you want to know that the medical professionals have the tools and the resources that they need to provide the care that they are trained to give.

I met a nurse on the weekend who told me that her hospital was so under-resourced that she was concerned for her licence and that the poor quality of care that she was forced to provide was causing her serious, serious mental anguish each and every day when she walked out the door after a shift. She actually had to quit her job to maintain her personal and professional integrity as a front-line nurse in a hospital.

When will this Premier stop denying that there is a crisis in health care and give front-line health care workers the resources that they need to provide the quality of care that they deserve to provide and that patients—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** I know that the leader of the third party met a nurse this weekend; she met her at the OPSEU offices in North Bay. She didn't bother to walk down the road to the hospital and actually visit the hospital, see for herself, talk to the hospital administration, talk to the staff working there, a hospital that has made exceptional progress in improving the outcomes of Ontarians in that part of the province.

But, Mr. Speaker, we have, on so many different measures—if we look at the Conference Board of Canada's 2015 health report, according to them, the health of

Ontarians was not only viewed favourably among Canadian provinces, but it was evaluated by the Conference Board as the seventh best in the world, placing ahead of Japan, ahead of Germany, ahead of the United Kingdom and ahead of the United States.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** I think it is disgraceful that a minister of the crown, a minister of this government that pretends to be progressive, continues to use unionization in a pejorative fashion in this House. Shame on that Liberal government, shame on them.

Ontario's hospitals undeniably need more than \$3 billion in critical maintenance. I have met nurses who have been fired from hospitals and I have met hospital—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Come to order. Please.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** I have met hospital administrators, CEOs of hospitals, who have told me that they have been forced to close beds because of Liberal budget cuts. What this all comes down to is that patients who need care in hospitals are not getting the care that they need because hospitals are being cut.

Instead of denying this crisis in health care, when will this Premier step up to the plate and deal with the crisis that she has created?

1120

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** Union representatives and their members know that this government has a deep and profound respect for them. We meet with them regularly. They help us develop positive and proactive policy decisions. But where I won't have it both ways, Mr. Speaker, is when the leader of the third party claims that—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Minister?

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** —when the leader of the third party claims that 350 nurses and health care workers lost their jobs at North Bay hospital, when, in fact, since the amalgamation in 2011, there have only been 21 layoffs. Where I draw the line is where she claims that 1,400 nurses lost their jobs last year, when the truth is that—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Leader of the third party, come to order.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** —over 3,000 net new jobs were created, according to the College of Nurses of Ontario —

*Interjections.*

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** You need to extend the session, we're having so much fun.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Renfrew, come to order, second time.

New question.

## PAN AM GAMES

**Mr. Steve Clark:** My question is for the Premier. This morning, the Auditor General tabled her special report on the Pan Am and Parapan Am Games. And

despite the government's claims, the Auditor General's report confirmed that the Pan Am Games were neither on time nor were they on budget. In fact, the operating budget—it's right here in black and white in the Auditor General's report. The Ontario government contributed "significantly more" dollars; in fact, \$304 million, or 61% more. She also highlighted that the bundling of capital projects "contributed to project delays and significant deficiencies."

We all know, Speaker, that the Pan Am lucrative bonuses were all tied to showing up for work, but also, they were for "exceptional performance goals."

They could have stopped this. They could have told them not to get this money. Why did this government look the other way?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** I want to take this opportunity to first thank the Auditor General for the report, and I want to thank the member opposite for the question.

On the very first page of the report, the Auditor General states, "Ontarians can take pride in the fact that the 2015 Games went off without a major hitch." She continues to say they "left a legacy of infrastructure for athletes and the general public to use, and led Canada to its biggest-ever haul of medals from a Pan Am/Parapan Am Games."

These are high praises coming from the Auditor General. It doesn't stop there. The AG states that the games were "praised for their smooth operations by the Pan American Sports Organization and the Americas Paralympic Committee."

She also highlights how all three levels of government leveraged the games and highlighted that the games accelerated the West Don Lands by about 10 years. We are so proud of these games.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. Be seated, please. Thank you.

Supplementary, please.

**Mr. Steve Clark:** The report is pretty clear: 61% over—\$304 million.

Speaker, back to the Premier: In September, I asked the minister to freeze the payment of all bonuses until the Auditor General finished her report. He answered by telling me these were the most transparent games in the history of the country. Despite the minister's gloating, the auditor said she was unable to obtain answers to certain questions and could not obtain some documents she requested. The auditor wasn't able to access all computer hard drives—hardly open and transparent for a government that has a shady history when it comes to hard drives.

What was the government hiding on these missing hard drives? Directives from the minister to not pay those lucrative Pan Am bonuses?

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** I'm proud of the legacy of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games. The Auditor General speaks

exactly about the highlights of this legacy for these games here in Ontario.

We increased the number of trained volunteers here in the province of Ontario. The Auditor General says, "Some 23,000 people served as trained volunteers for the games and a new volunteer website was introduced to link games volunteers to future volunteer opportunities" here in Ontario.

The AG talks about how we encouraged youth sport, stating that the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Kids Program also helped "motivate children and youth to participate in sports at more than 4,250 sites."

The AG states: "The games helped fund completion of a 250-kilometre stretch of the Trans Canada Trail here in Ontario, which provides a continuous trail from Windsor to Ottawa, and from Fort Erie to North Bay."

Mr. Speaker, it's only the Progressive Conservatives, from the very beginning, who didn't understand the power of these games. We are proud—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated. Stop the clock. Be seated, please.

New question.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** My question to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change: Today the government finally released its climate change plan. The plan is—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Order.

**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** The plan is long overdue and much needed. But for this plan to sustain public support, it needs to be fair, effective and transparent.

Low-income, rural and northern communities face a disproportionate burden. Climate change action will cost them more of their income than other Ontarians. They will need some extra help, but when you look at the percentage of total spending, this plan offers very little support for these communities.

Why does this action plan offer so little support to low-income, rural and northern communities?

**Hon. Glen R. Murray:** I want to thank the member not only for his question, but for the very hard work he did on the bill. Nothing makes an environment minister happier than when the critic says we should do more.

There is over \$1 billion of support for affordable housing and apartments and for single-family homes. In the north, this will be particularly powerful. As the Minister of Energy said earlier today, the savings, I believe, are in the range of \$800 to \$1,300 per home for rural and northerners through the types of programs that are available to them.

We recognize that northerners don't have some of the choices that people in the south and large cities do, so we are putting disproportionately more money into those programs where the highest cost levels are and where things like transit and energy choices are more limited.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** The NDP proposed that Ontario follow California's example by dedicating at least 25%—25%, Minister—of cap-and-trade funds to programs that directly benefit low-income, rural and northern communities, which are facing a disproportionate burden. Notwithstanding what you've said, Minister, we don't see that 25% allocation. The government rejected our proposal.

Instead, out of the \$8.3 billion the minister wants to spend, northerners will get just \$1 million to \$4 million to replace their wood stoves. It's the only explicit commitment to the north.

How can the minister sustain public support for his climate change action plan when he won't address the unfair burdens carried by low-income, rural and northern households?

**Hon. Glen R. Murray:** I appreciate the question, again.

The member is reading from page 67 of the plan, which is a dedicated program—he's right—that recognizes wood stoves. Right above it, it says that for all Ontarians, because we're one Ontario, there's \$500 million to \$600 million for home retrofits and energy systems. Right underneath it, for near net-zero carbon incentive rebates, there's another \$180 million to \$220 million.

I would suggest, since the low-income lens, unlike California, doesn't apply to a group of expenditures, that we have to demonstrate across all of our expenditures that we've met the equity test, that all monies can be applied in these situations.

Northerners are eligible for all of this money. We're working with rural municipalities in the north, and we'll be working with municipalities to support existing municipal programs and add to those.

1130

## MINING INDUSTRY

**Mr. Glenn Thibeault:** My question is for the Minister of Northern Development and Mines. Many people in northern Ontario and in my riding of Sudbury are involved in the mining and mining exploration industry. Companies conducting mineral exploration are part of an important early step in the mining cycle, and it is critical to the success of the mining industry that the government support their development.

Last month, I asked the minister about the Junior Exploration Assistance Program and what this government is doing to support Ontario's mining industry. I understand that, recently, the first round of the JEAP program closed and funding has been announced. Can the minister please update this House on the progress of the Junior Exploration Assistance Program and how the government is supporting mineral exploration in Ontario?

**Hon. Michael Gravelle:** Thank you to the member for Sudbury for that question. As always, I appreciate his great commitment to Ontario's mining industry.

Certainly, all members of our government understand that the mineral sector is vital to our economy and to our future prosperity. That is why, in December, we announced an investment of \$5 million through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corp. to support this new Junior Exploration Assistance Program, or JEAP, delivered by the Ontario Prospectors Association, to aid junior exploration companies to conduct or plan exploration work in northern Ontario. We knew it was timely to support this.

Following the first round of applications, I was pleased to announce that we are supporting 32 projects from 25 different companies for an investment of \$2.7 million, something that was very welcome from all the junior exploration companies.

May I also say that the Ontario Prospectors Association has announced that a second round of applications is now in the works. It began May 30 and goes to the end of August.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Glenn Thibeault:** I want to thank the minister for that answer. I know that it's encouraging to see this government actively supporting the mining and exploration industry in Ontario. As the minister knows and mentioned, the mining industry in Ontario supports 26,000 direct jobs and over 50,000 indirect jobs. It is important to note that it is the largest private sector employer of indigenous peoples in Canada.

I understand that, in addition to supporting the mineral exploration companies and projects, the Junior Exploration Assistance Program and the Ontario Prospectors Association are providing resources for members of the public and indigenous people who are interested in becoming prospectors. Can the minister please tell us more about the prospectors' training program and how this will help grow the prospecting industry in northern Ontario?

**Hon. Michael Gravelle:** That's a great question.

We need more prospectors in the province of Ontario. Later this summer, the Ontario Prospectors Association will be engaging in this new, exciting initiative aimed at training new prospectors across northern Ontario. We're working in partnership, again, with the OPA to deliver five-day prospecting training courses to members of the public interested in learning more about prospecting and possibly becoming prospectors.

This supports our government's Mineral Development Strategy and its commitment to educate, to recruit and to retain a highly skilled exploration workforce in Ontario. They'll be working with geoscientists from the Ontario Geological Survey. Trainees will develop such skills as rock and mineral identification and geological map reading. They'll also learn about what government programs are available to assist in their prospecting endeavours.

Together with initiatives like this and the JEAP program that we talked about earlier, we're going to be supporting a mineral sector that's healthy, innovative and sustainable—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

## SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS

**Mr. Todd Smith:** My question this morning is for the Minister of Education.

Minister, two days before most parents and kids were notified of the consultation process that was beginning for provincial and demonstration schools, the government held a secret meeting about the future of the demonstration schools.

I've got a few questions for the minister this morning. Can the minister confirm if such a meeting was held on February 21: yes or no? Was the only agenda item for that meeting "an exit strategy to close demonstration schools in June 2017": yes or no? And if those were both things that did happen, why would this government spend \$1.8 million on a consultation process when, really, the decisions had already been made to close these schools in June 2017?

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** The reason we would have a consultation process is, obviously, that no decisions were made. We went out to consult. We recognized, obviously, that there are some issues around enrolment in our schools for the deaf, in some cases. We realize there are issues around the number of children with severe learning disabilities who can be served by demonstration schools in the way that they're presently offered. There are actually only 160 children per year who can receive the programming, all across Ontario, that's offered for severe learning disabilities in demonstration schools.

But were any decisions made prior to the consultations? Absolutely not. That's why we had consultations.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary.

**Mr. Todd Smith:** Speaker, back to the minister: This government's plan—or lack of plan, I guess—has caused chaos for these students, and it has caused chaos for the parents. It has caused chaos for the employees. That's why they're rallying again today outside the schools in Belleville, Milton, London and Ottawa, at these provincial schools.

The freeze on school enrolment during the consultation has forced these parents into limbo. They won't know until June 24 whether their children will be accepted into a demonstration school. As a result, they're unable to tell their home school boards whether they'll have to deal with a student with a learning disability. Now we have kids with severe learning disabilities who don't know where they're going to go to school next year, and the schools, which are cutting millions of dollars in special education programming, don't have a place for them either.

If the Premier doesn't fire this minister next week, she's doing all students in the province a disservice.

Speaker, does the minister think it's appropriate that the students who need the education system most should have to guess about where they're going to school next year?

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** As the member knows perfectly well, the application process for students who wish to attend a demonstration school is ongoing. There is an

application process for students who wish to attend demonstration schools, every year. As I just mentioned, there are 160 places for students in demonstration schools throughout the province, at the four demonstration schools, so there's an application process every year where students don't know until the spring whether or not they will be one of the students who have been accepted.

My concern is that we have students all across Ontario with severe learning disabilities who actually don't have the sophisticated programs available that are available at the demonstration schools. We don't think that you should have to apply—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

New question.

### PAN AM GAMES

**Mr. Paul Miller:** My question is to the Premier. This morning, as you know, the Auditor General revealed that the Pan Am Games went shockingly over budget. Ontario's original budget for the games was \$500 million. The cost so far is \$804 million and climbing. That's 61% over budget. This is almost at the eHealth and Ornge levels of waste. Yet seven months ago, the minister stood up and had the audacity to claim that the Pan Am Games had come in under budget.

Enough is enough. We can't trust even simple arithmetic with this government. What is the Premier going to do to hold people accountable for wasting \$300 million-plus of provincial money?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** I want to thank the member for the question.

In 2009, there was a bid book. The bid book had \$2.42 billion for the games, the entire amount. It was \$47 million under budget by the time we reported in our last technical briefing.

Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General highlights that the games were so successful that public attention to the games also grew as the number of Canadian medals continued to be won.

The CBC, which broadcast the games in Canada, expanded its television coverage three times to respond to this demand. That wasn't once or twice, but three times. That's because these games were the most successful Pan Am/Parapan Am Games in the history of these games.

1140

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Paul Miller:** If I inflate the prices originally, I can come under budget, too.

The incompetence is incredible—the incompetence. Let me quote—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock.

**Mr. Paul Miller:** Let me quote the report on the other funding partners for the Pan Am Games: "The federal

government, the municipalities, and the universities in total contributed 96% of their 2009 commitment...."

So everyone else came under budget. But the government went 61% over budget. How can the Premier possibly excuse this? And to make matters worse—this is the pièce de résistance—the TO2015 board decided last August to award full executive bonuses, despite the interim figures not being in and despite being fully aware that it had gone over the operating budget.

Why did the Premier authorize some of the highest bonuses in history on the sunshine list, when she should have known that TO2015 had spent over budget? And in light of the Auditor General's—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** The Auditor General's report underscores that the governance of the games was best in class. The AG states that the governance model was a "good model for a multi- and cross-disciplinary project like the Games." That the governance led to the AG saying that, "On an overall basis, TO2015 exceeded its sponsorships target by 29%."

He also leaves out that the AG says that "the vast majority of" infrastructure projects "came in at or under budget."

Mr. Speaker, everyone knows that the games were a massive success. It boosted our GDP by \$3.7 billion; it created 26,000 jobs and has left a legacy for all of us to be proud of.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Hamilton East–Stoney Creek, please come to order.

New question.

### SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

**Ms. Ann Hoggarth:** My question is for the minister responsible for women's issues.

Minister, May was Sexual Assault Prevention Month. We all know that sexual violence has a devastating impact on the lives of victims and their families. I find this unacceptable and do not believe that sexual violence should be tolerated in Ontario or anywhere else.

It is important that we support survivors and work toward changing attitudes and behaviours that lead to such violence. This means changing the conversation and engaging Ontarians in a discussion about sexual violence, how to prevent it and how to inspire behavioural changes.

Minister, could you tell me how you are working toward changing behaviours that lead to sexual violence, and fostering this discussion?

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** I want to thank the member from Barrie for this very important question. This is an extremely important issue, and we must all work together toward solutions.

Part of It's Never Okay, our action plan to stop sexual violence that we launched last year, established the Creative Engagement Fund, which is a \$2.25-million investment over three years to support artistic projects that

raise awareness and provoke discussion about challenging issues around sexual violence and harassment. These projects can include things like performing art, writing, music, photography or murals and traditional aboriginal art.

The artists and the art organizations will partner with sexual violence and harassment prevention organizations to ensure that their projects are informed by the experiences of survivors and those working closely with them. These projects will start conversations and work towards engaging all Ontarians in a discussion on ending sexual violence in our province.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Ann Hoggarth:** Thank you to the minister for that response. I'm glad to hear that we are fostering awareness to support survivors. This confirms our government's commitment to ending sexual violence and working towards prevention.

It's Never Okay states that we are establishing several methods to spread information and generate new ideas about how to end sexual violence. I'm curious to know how these efforts are making a difference.

I understand that recently the first recipients of the creative engagement and innovation funds were announced after a competitive application process.

Could the minister tell us about these first recipients of funding from the action plan and how they are contributing to the conversation?

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** Again, I want to thank the member for the question.

Last month, we announced there would be 11 recipients through the Creative Engagement Fund, ranging in topics from consent, rape culture and gender equality, to challenging attitudes that actually cause sexual violence. I look forward to seeing the results of the work of the 11 recipients in the near future.

As mentioned, the action plan also established an innovation fund—that's a \$3-million fund—with the intention of providing organizations with the means to create pilot projects, like flexible employment programs, mobile support units and bilingual intervention methods.

This year, the innovation fund is supporting seven projects across the province. They include projects on vertical farming to provide flexible employment to survivors of human trafficking, research into providing support services for francophone immigrant women, and the development of technological tools for sexual assault survivors—very important work—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

## TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** My question is for the Minister of Transportation. As the minister will recall, on January 20, town of Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette and staff, Regional Chair Gary Carr and I met with him to discuss transportation issues in the town of Halton Hills.

At that meeting, the minister indicated that while the GTA West Corridor study had been put on hold, he

would have an update for us soon. That was almost five months ago now, which begs the question: How does the minister define the word "soon"?

The uncertainty surrounding the GTA West Corridor study is impacting the ability of the town of Halton Hills to plan for the future. Our riding was opposed to alternative 4-3 and we need to know where this is going.

Will the minister explain the holdup, inform the House of the status of the GTA West Corridor study and tell us when he is going to be making a public announcement of what's going to happen next?

**Hon. Steven Del Duca:** I appreciate the question from the member from Wellington–Halton Hills. I remember that meeting that he asked for with partners from the municipalities in his particular area. It was a great meeting; in fact, not the first meeting that I have had the privilege to take part in with that particular member who is a very strong advocate, I will admit, of course, for his community.

As we said, I believe it was last December when we were pausing the environmental assessment on this particular project, a project that began more than a decade ago. I think every member in this House would recognize that the world of transportation and transportation planning has changed dramatically over the last decade, and I suspect will continue to change and transform in the next number of years and decades.

As soon as we have completed the review internally that's being undertaken currently, we will provide a public update.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** At the January 20 meeting, we also discussed the need to find a solution to the problem of truck traffic along Highway 7, including the possibility of an Acton bypass.

There are serious concerns which have been expressed by the town council and residents about the ever-increasing truck traffic along Highway 7 in Acton, as well as in Georgetown and Norval. I share those concerns and I tabled a resolution in this House last fall to draw attention to the problem. It's still on the order paper.

The town of Halton Hills has offered to partner with the MTO on a study to examine the problem and come up with a long-term solution. The town has even offered to cover half the cost of the study.

Will the minister commit to partnering with the town of Halton Hills to carry out this study and work together with us to find a long-term solution?

**Hon. Steven Del Duca:** I thank the member for his follow-up question.

I am always happy and the Ministry of Transportation is always happy, to work with members on all sides of this House and our municipal partners to find appropriate solutions to the challenges we face. I know the ministry—we're still having an internal discussion about that very specific funding support request from Halton Hills. Again, as soon as we have an update with respect to that particular item, we're happy to share it.

While I have the opportunity, I also once again congratulate that member and our members from Guelph and

from the Hamilton area, because not that many weeks ago we approved the Morriston bypass, a significant infrastructure project in that member's community.

### EDUCATION FUNDING

**Ms. Jennifer K. French:** My question is to the Minister of Education. This government continues to deny children with autism vital therapy while also cutting front-line education workers who help children succeed. Parents at the Toronto Catholic board are concerned as the board is being forced to eliminate 56 education assistants. This government has cut over half a million dollars to that board this year, making the problem worse. In Windsor, the public board continually faces a shortfall of nearly \$5 million in special education funding. Government cuts to education leave school boards scrambling to fill gaps in service.

1150

Will this Minister of Education admit that forcing school boards to make decisions based on dollars and deficits is leaving students with exceptional needs behind?

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** I'm pleased to respond to the questions about funding for school boards, but I think we do need to focus on some of the facts. For example, the Greater Essex County District School Board in Windsor—their enrolment has gone down this year. By the board's own calculation, they have a \$700,000 decrease in funding because their enrolment dropped.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Order.

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** By the board's own calculation, they have 6,000—6,000—unutilized spaces. That is 6,000 seats. It's actually costing them \$6 million a year to maintain those 6,000 unused seats.

The idea that we've cut special education funding just isn't true. What has been cut is enrolment-based funding.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Jennifer K. French:** Back to the Minister of Education: Ontario families know that when \$8 million is cut from special education funding across 25 school boards, and \$1 billion in dedicated education funding goes unused over the past three years, their children are not a priority.

At the Upper Grand District School Board, over \$500,000 in cuts means that the amount of time that education assistants can spend with students will be reduced. In Halton, the projected cumulative impact of special education cuts is \$18.5 million over four years. Perhaps this minister can focus on facts and stop manipulating them.

September is coming. Thousands of students with autism will enter schools that do not have the resources to meet their needs. Why is this government balancing the books on the backs of students with special needs?

**Hon. Liz Sandals:** Let's talk a little bit about special education funding. Since 2003, we have actually increased special education funding by 70%. We have

increased it from \$1.14 billion to \$2.76 billion. We have not cut special education funding; one of the areas which has actually gone up most quickly is special education funding.

She talked about the Toronto Catholic District School Board. It has had an increase of \$3.3 million in special education funding. So we know that the idea this party opposite promulgates—that we're going around recklessly cutting special education funding—is just not true.

What I can say about the issue of autism is that we actually have a program called Connections which, when children are coming off of IBI treatment and coming to the school board—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

New question.

### SENIORS

**Ms. Soo Wong:** My question is for the minister responsible for seniors affairs. In June of each year, Ontario celebrates and recognizes the contributions seniors make in our communities with many local events and activities across the province. Seniors are valuable members of our community through their knowledge, experiences, skills and energy.

In my riding of Scarborough—Agincourt, a number of active seniors participate in many programs like the Happy Caring Seniors Performance Troupe, hosted by the Golden Maple Leaf Seniors Association; and the Villa Elegance support program, which promotes "Seniors Staying Active, Healthy and Connected." Both of these community groups recently received funding from the seniors community grants for their programs.

Mr. Speaker, through you to the minister, can he please inform the House about how the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat is supporting seniors through the month of June?

**Hon. Mario Sergio:** How refreshing it is to hear the member for Scarborough—Agincourt speak so passionately about the seniors in her riding. I know that this is a sentiment that is expressed by every member of the House.

June 2016 is the 32nd annual Seniors' Month in the province of Ontario. To recognize the important role that our seniors play, the theme for this year is "Seniors Making a Difference." Seniors not only make a difference, but they enjoy doing what we have proposed to them, with all the plans and activities that we are planning for the month of June.

The month of June is dedicated solely to seniors. The OSS is involved in organizing hundreds of activities in our province. I am very delighted to hear that Scarborough—Agincourt is—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Answer?

**Hon. Mario Sergio:**—a lot of events and the member from Scarborough—Agincourt is planning to attend and celebrate seniors during the month of June.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Soo Wong:** I want to thank the minister for his response and for the work that the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat is providing for Ontario's seniors.

Minister, we know that by acknowledging seniors' contributions and how they are making a difference in our community, we are fostering a more age-inclusive society, a society that does not pit one generation against the other.

During Seniors' Month, as you said earlier, I will be taking part in a number of seniors events in my riding, including the official opening of the new Carefirst centre, which has been providing quality care to seniors in Toronto and York region for the past 40 years.

Every day, I hear concerns raised by many non-profit groups regarding challenges in finding funds to operate their free community programs, which keep seniors healthy and active in our community.

Speaker, through you to the minister: Can he please explain to the House what funding is available to community groups to support their seniors' programs?

**Hon. Mario Sergio:** I want to thank the member from Scarborough—Agincourt again for the question.

Let me say that it was the Premier's decision and her strong support for our seniors—she wanted a plan dedicated solely to our seniors in the province of Ontario.

I have to say that the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat staff has been very busy in sifting through another 700 applications this year alone. The most wonderful thing is that seniors' organizations have embraced the call to the program. So far, we have had some 544 programs that have enjoyed activities in our province of Ontario.

So in the month of June—again, this is a reminder to every member—we have celebrations going on throughout the province. I would hope that the members will find the time to join the seniors and really tell them—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

New question.

#### ANTI-SEMITISM

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** Last week, the Premier said that she wants to work with all parties in the House to create legislation to combat the BDS movement, which seeks to destroy the only democracy in the Middle East, Israel. As a member of the Jewish community, I am keenly aware that this movement is built on hate and lies.

A few days ago, New York Governor Cuomo stood up to anti-Semitism by signing an executive order to ensure that those who boycott Israel get boycotted themselves—

**Interjections:** Cuomo.

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** Sorry, that's Governor Cuomo.

Will the Premier please tell us what legislation she is proposing and how it will be more than just words—legislation that will actually have the power to end the discrimination of anything associated with Israel and the Jewish community on our campuses?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** I just need to correct the member opposite: I never talked about legislation; I said we needed to work together with the opposition.

Our government is a strong, strong supporter of Israel. We always have been, we always will be. That's why I was in Israel, strengthening and promoting our relationship and our trade ties. I made a statement when I was there. I said that BDS is not my position, nor is it the position of our government.

It's unacceptable for students, parents or children to feel unsafe or to feel discriminated against wherever they are, whether they're on a campus, whether they're in their communities. Our government will never support a climate of fear or hostility. That's why we set up the Anti-Racism Directorate.

We are absolutely clear in our position. I have made a statement and I stick to that statement.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Question period is over.

There are no deferred votes. This House stands recessed until 3 p.m.

*The House recessed from 1200 to 1500.*

#### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** I'd like to introduce my friend Karl Crevar. He's here this afternoon at Queen's Park. He's with the Ontario Network of Injured Worker Groups. Welcome back, Karl.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Welcome.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** I want to welcome some friends who are in the Legislature. I want to welcome Monte Vieselmeyer, who is the chair of the management employee relations committee for the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services; Tammy Carson, who is the vice-chair of the health and safety provincial committee—she sent me an email about that the other day, so I remember that now; Gord Longhi, who is a member of OPSEU and represents probation and parole officers within the ministry. There's another friend here as well who—I do not know the name, but I want to welcome him as well.

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** Bill Carson.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Bill Carson is here with us, who I want to welcome.

To all our friends, welcome to Queen's Park and thank you for your public service.

#### MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

##### IMPACT! YOUTH SUMMIT

**Mr. Bill Walker:** We recognize that the challenges we tackle and the decisions we make today bear an important accountability to future generations. This is why it was so refreshing to be in the company of some 500 youths at their first Impact! Youth Summit, held in Hanover.

From May 27 to 29, young people from all corners of the province gathered in my riding of Bruce—Grey—Owen

Sound, and in the good company of Craig Kielburger, a social activist, bestselling author and co-founder of Free the Children and ME to WE.

The event was a young people's thinkers' forum, designed to enhance their leadership skills while creating an awareness of mental health and well-being, concerns that impact youth across all of our communities.

Participants also learned about social media etiquette, public speaking and fundraising skills. They heard from motivational speaker Ryan Porter and Team Canada Inline goalie and mental health advocate Kendra Fisher, and participated in a social gala dinner, MUCH video dance and a Bigger and Better Challenge.

I thank the organizers, Youth Roots of Hanover and Surrounding Area, and the summit's chief architects, Brandon Koebel and Ashton Lawrence, who also inspired the initiative, for hosting this successful event. I'm honoured to have had the opportunity to see first-hand how inspiring our youth are and to hear about issues that matter to them.

I thank community leaders Hanover mayor Sue Paterson, Brockton mayor David Inglis, my colleague and friend Huron-Bruce MPP Lisa Thompson, as well as all others for their support and engagement at the first Impact! Youth Summit.

I am very pleased to see our youth stepping up to address the issues that matter to them and showing awareness of how they can and must play a vital role in their communities and their future.

My hope and expectation is that we will see more youth summits and more engagement with our youth, who are truly our province's finest resource and our future business and community leaders.

#### COMMEMORATION OF FALLEN SOLDIERS

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** I'd like to use the short time I have today to offer the government an idea on how to honour the families of the soldiers killed while serving their country.

It's not my idea. It comes from Tom Macdonald in Belleville. He wrote the Premier of Saskatchewan, Brad Wall. The suggestion is that the province create a special Silver Cross licence plate, one per family, for those who lost a son or daughter in military action while serving their country.

Canada lost 158 military personnel in Afghanistan, for example. I don't have an exact number for those who came from Ontario, but I'm sure the government could find that out in short order. Premier Wall has asked his people to look into the idea.

In Windsor, we lost Corporal Andrew Grenon on the 3rd of September, 2008. He was in the PPCLI, the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was on patrol. His light armoured vehicle was attacked by insurgents. Three Canadians were killed that day, and another five were injured. Andrew's battle group was due

to return home within two weeks. His mother, Theresa Charbonneau, attends our annual cenotaph services as our Silver Cross mother.

I'm sure that if we do this, everyone who sees that one-of-a-kind plate would thank the driver for their service. What better way to honour the families of those who paid the supreme sacrifice?

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL'S VICTIM SERVICES AWARDS OF DISTINCTION

**Ms. Ann Hoggarth:** Today I would like to acknowledge a recipient of the Attorney General's Victim Services Awards of Distinction, 12-year-old Ellie Stones, from my riding of Barrie.

Two years ago, Ellie and her younger sisters were victims of a terrifying attempt at luring by a male driver. Ellie's quick thinking, upon noticing his suspicious behaviour, was clearly demonstrated by the manner in which she sought immediate assistance and protection from nearby citizens. As a result, police conducted an investigation and located the male, who was later arrested and charged with criminal harassment.

Ellie attended court in October 2015 and testified at the criminal trial, where she demonstrated even further courage by not only preparing a meaningful and powerful victim impact statement, but she also opted to stand up in the courtroom in the presence of the accused and read her victim impact statement to the court. As a result of her testimony, the accused changed his plea to guilty mid-trial.

Motivated by this traumatic experience, Ellie became involved with the Barrie Police Service and now visits various schools to teach children about safety. She also stars in Ellie's Safety Tips, a TV show that teaches children what and what not to do when faced with potentially dangerous situations.

We should all be proud of Ellie's bravery and advocacy. She is truly deserving of this award, and she's a great role model for her peers.

#### EVENTS IN HURON-BRUCE

**Ms. Lisa M. Thompson:** It's hard to believe we've reached the end, and there's so much to be said. So I hope I can fit it all in, because I could easily talk about the youth in my riding, who continue to amaze us all with their hard work and their creativity.

For instance, I'm proud of Jillian Bjelan from Hensall. She recently received the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers Award from the Lieutenant Governor. Or I could talk about Eric Zinn, who grew up on a farm outside of Lucknow in Huron county and who was one of the 10 OLIP interns this past year.

Unfortunately, though, if I had more time, I could also describe how the government has made it more difficult to support Huron-Bruce's talented youth by eliminating the rural youth job service program. Or I could touch on

some important issues facing Ontarians, like living with industrial wind turbines; sharing the road, in terms of road safety; the sharing economy; or the expansion of natural gas to Huron-Kinloss, Kincardine and Arran-Elderslie.

But I could also talk very much about the exciting things that happened in Huron-Bruce as well—for instance, the 75th anniversary of both the Huron and Bruce federations of agriculture. Or I could talk about McGavin Farm Equipment's 80th year of being in business in Walton—80 years of family tradition. Just so you know, Walton is actually the site for the 2017 International Plowing Match.

Or I could talk about the 90th anniversary—if I had more time—of the CKNX radio station, which has been proudly broadcasting country music from Huron county since 1926. Or I could talk about how, just last weekend, Alice Munro sponsored and hosted a wonderful Festival of the Short Story—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I'm sure you can.

**Ms. Lisa M. Thompson:** With that, in my last seconds—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** “With that”?

**Ms. Lisa M. Thompson:** —I just wanted to give a quick shout-out to my team. They support me unconditionally. Thank you, Jessica, Shane, interns Alison, Sarah, Diane, Janet and Lynne.

#### BRAMPTON KABADDI TOURNAMENT

**Mr. Jagmeet Singh:** I am proud to announce that last week, on Wednesday, June 1, Brampton hosted the first-ever kabaddi tournament in North America. Kabaddi is a sport played across South Asia. It's a combination of rugby, wrestling and tag. It's a sport that's also referred to as the *[remarks in Punjabi]*, or “the sport of all sports” in Punjab, the land of five rivers.

This tournament was organized by four different high schools—Turner Fenton, Fletcher's Meadow, Louise Arbour and Sandalwood Heights.

This sport is often played recreationally in parks and in family settings, and there are also massive private tournaments. But this was the first time that this sport was played in an institution here in Ontario. Bringing the sport to Peel District School Board is a true example of celebrating diversity and inclusion. It's one thing to celebrate diversity as the fabric of our society, but it's another thing to make sure that it's included into our institutions, like our schools.

I want to also acknowledge that the many students that participated who were soccer players and football players said, after playing this tournament, they thought this was one of their favourite sports of all time.

I also want to thank all the coaches, the administration, the Peel District School Board and all the trustees who made this possible. It was truly an amazing thing to see kabaddi played in our schools—a true example of diversity and inclusion.

1510

#### ONTARIO VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS

#### DISTINCTIONS DE L'ONTARIO POUR SERVICES BÉNÉVOLES

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** On June 2, the government of Ontario recognized and thanked thousands of volunteers through the annual Ontario Volunteer Service Awards. Since 1986, Ontario through this program has recognized the important contribution of volunteers to their community and their continuous years of service to a single organization.

This year, I attended the ceremony along with my colleagues the Honourable Madeleine Meilleur and MPP John Fraser, and I'm delighted and proud to say that 37 people from the great riding of Ottawa-Orléans were recognized. These volunteers, of all ages, have been dedicating their time and efforts for at least two years and up to 50 years, and that is truly commendable.

Le bénévolat est tellement important dans la dynamique de nos communautés et des organismes qui les composent. Je me réjouis que l'on puisse reconnaître ces personnes qui donnent de leur temps inconditionnellement.

Volunteers have had such a big impact on the well-being and positive growth of communities in so many ways.

Merci à vous, chers bénévoles, pour votre dévouement.

Thank you to all volunteers for your dedication.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Mr. Todd Smith:** I rise today to congratulate the citizens of Prince Edward county. For years, they fought their own government over a project that they claimed would harm the natural environment on the South Shore. It turns out, they were right. They were actually right three times, Mr. Speaker.

The first environmental tribunal ruled that the project would cause irreversible harm to the environment. The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld that ruling, and now, after a second Environmental Review Tribunal was convened to determine whether the harm could be mitigated, the tribunal determined that it couldn't.

The government's environmental experts have now been asked to weigh in three times. All three times, the experts have said that this project is environmentally destructive. In their ruling, the ERT stated that “to proceed with the project, when it will cause serious and irreversible harm to animal life, a species at risk and its habitat, is not consistent with the general and renewable energy approval purposes of the EPA ... protection and conservation of the natural environment, nor does it serve the public interest....”

When the experts were asked to judge the government's argument, that renewable energy trumped protecting the natural environment from destruction, they found the argument lacking.

Speaker, it's time that the insanity of this policy and years of conflict it has wrought across Prince Edward be brought to a swift and immediate end. There exists no rationale for any project on the county's South Shore. All of the ones currently planned for the area will be as, or more, destructive than the project that just had its approval revoked.

The continued expense by the province, both in time and money, fighting the people of Prince Edward county should be used elsewhere.

#### ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** I'm especially honoured to stand today in the House to congratulate Newmarket's St. John Chrysostom Catholic Church on its 170th anniversary. This past Sunday, there was a wonderful church service presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Collins and a great gala afterward.

The church is one of the oldest in the Archdiocese of Toronto and, I'm told, the second-oldest in Newmarket. It's closely linked with desperate Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine and settling in my riding of Newmarket–Aurora.

Being resilient and hard-working, the Irish community flourished and built the first church in 1839. Today, St. John Chrysostom is a vibrant and active faith community. Dedicated parishioners are known for their outreach and their community building.

It is clear the strength of the church also comes from the leadership. None better demonstrates this than its two retiring pastors, Father Robert Ouellette and Father Miro Michalik.

Father Ouellette—Father Bob to all—grew up in Toronto and was headed for a career in dentistry when he heard the call to become a priest, choosing the pearly gates over the pearly whites. After 19 years in Newmarket, Father Bob will be missed.

Father Miro was ordained a deacon at Our Lady of Grace in Aurora in 1982 and a priest at St. Michael's the next year. He, too, will be missed, after spending 19 years in the parish.

Thanks to the priests and parishioners of the church for your ongoing devotion to your church and our town, and best wishes in the next 175 years.

#### BIKE MONTH

**Ms. Harinder Malhi:** Bicycling is an increasingly popular mode of transportation across Ontario. Bike Month 2016 is being celebrated this year between May 30 and June 30 with a number of campaigns and events. We encourage you to get involved with events in your area and help spread the word.

We have already had a great deal of success across the province, but especially in Brampton. Bike to Work Day on Monday, May 30, had many participants, along with Bike to School Week, a week in celebration of cycling

and active transportation with the goal of increasing the number of children who bike to school. Students throughout the region of Peel and Brampton–Springdale participated in large numbers, with prizes awarded for registered participants of the Walk and Roll initiative by the region of Peel.

Many other events have taken place, including Bramalea CycleFest that started at the All People's Church and others that are planned, such as those organized by BikeBrampton, including the Biking Builds Communities interactive sessions taking place at five libraries around the city.

Next weekend I will also be taking part in the Bike the Creek event on June 18. I welcome everybody to join me for a fun day of cycling while exploring the natural beauty and heritage of Brampton and Caledon.

Bike Week 2016 showcases the Etobicoke Creek Trail and the Fletchers Creek Trail, Brampton and Caledon's natural valley lands, parks, storm water ponds and Brampton's historically significant sites: Bovaird House, Brampton Memorial Arena and the Dominion Skate factory.

I hope to see you all there to celebrate Ontario's Bike Month. Let's get rolling.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I thank all members for their statements.

### REPORTS BY COMMITTEES

#### STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE BILLS

**Ms. Indira Naidoo-Harris:** Mr. Speaker, I beg leave to present a report from the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills and move its adoption.

**The Clerk-at-the-Table (Mr. William Short):** Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendment:

Bill Pr46, An Act to revive Harold Coles Inc.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Shall the report be received and adopted? Agreed? Carried.

*Report adopted.*

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT (REGIONAL ABORIGINAL SCHOOL BOARDS), 2016 LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LA LOI SUR L'ÉDUCATION (CONSEILS SCOLAIRES AUTOCHTONES RÉGIONAUX)

Mr. Bisson moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 214, An Act to amend the Education Act to provide for agreements to create regional Aboriginal

school boards / *Projet de loi 214, Loi modifiant la Loi sur l'éducation pour prévoir la conclusion d'ententes créant des conseils scolaires autochtones régionaux.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for a short statement.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** This bill amends the Education Act and allows First Nations who so choose, and only if they choose, to create aboriginal school boards so that they can enjoy the education that other kids in this province currently receive.

#### HAZEL McCALLION DAY ACT, 2016

##### LOI DE 2016 SUR LE JOUR DE HAZEL McCALLION

Mrs. Mangat moved first reading of the following bill:  
Bill 215, An Act to proclaim Hazel McCallion Day / *Projet de loi 215, Loi proclamant le Jour de Hazel McCallion.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for a short statement.

**Mrs. Amrit Mangat:** This bill will acknowledge Hazel McCallion's lifetime of contributions to her community by declaring February 14 each year as Hazel McCallion Day in Ontario.

Given the length of her public service career, including 36 years as mayor of the city of Mississauga, and her ongoing volunteerism for local and international causes, it would be appropriate to acknowledge her legacy and her example by naming a day in her honour.

#### GREATER ACCESS TO HEPATITIS C TREATMENT ACT, 2016

##### LOI DE 2016 SUR L'ÉLARGISSEMENT DE L'ACCÈS AU TRAITEMENT DE L'HÉPATITE C

Ms. Jones moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 216, An Act to amend the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Act in respect of Hepatitis C / *Projet de loi 216, Loi modifiant la Loi sur le ministère de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée en ce qui concerne l'hépatite C.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

1520

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Introduction of bills—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Sorry, I'm getting ahead of myself. The member for a short statement.

**Ms. Sylvia Jones:** Thank you, Speaker. Nearly half of Ontarians living with hep C are unaware that they are impacted. Individuals can live with hepatitis C for many years without realizing the virus is damaging their liver.

New treatments have a 95% effectiveness rate in curing individuals with hepatitis C. However, obtaining access to these new treatments in Ontario requires an individual to meet restrictive clinical criteria.

My bill would allow Ontarians to take a leadership role in ending the single most burdensome infectious disease in Canada by allowing all individuals access to these new, highly effective treatments.

#### SERVICE DOGS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 2016

##### LOI DE 2016 SUR LES CHIENS D'ASSISTANCE POUR LES PERSONNES HANDICAPÉES

Mr. Harris moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 217, An Act respecting the rights of persons with disabilities who use service dogs / *Projet de loi 217, Loi concernant les droits des personnes handicapées qui ont recours à des chiens d'assistance.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for a short statement.

**Mr. Michael Harris:** Today I introduce the Service Dogs for Persons with Disabilities Act, to prohibit the denial of accommodation, services or facilities to an individual, or discriminating against an individual with respect to accommodation, services or facilities, because the individual is a person with a disability who is accompanied by a service dog, or who requires the accompaniment of a support person or the use of an assistive device to assist them with their service dog. The bill further directs that a person who contravenes the prohibition is liable to a fine of up to \$5,000.

Thank you, Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further introduction of bills? The Minister of Economic Development, Innovation—

**Hon. Brad Duguid:** Used to be.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** —Employment and Infrastructure. I'll get it right one of these days.

**Hon. Brad Duguid:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### BURDEN REDUCTION ACT, 2016

##### LOI DE 2016 SUR L'ALLÈGEMENT DU FARDEAU RÉGLEMENTAIRE

Mr. Duguid moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 218, An Act to reduce the regulatory burden on business, to enact various new Acts and to make other amendments and repeals / *Projet de loi 218, Loi visant à alléger le fardeau réglementaire des entreprises, à édicter diverses lois et à modifier et abroger d'autres lois.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for a short statement.

**Hon. Brad Duguid:** The proposed legislative amendments in the 2016 Burden Reduction Act will impact over 50 existing statutes and are being made to improve the regulations within 11 Ontario ministries.

The amendments are intended to reduce regulatory burdens to save businesses time and money. By modernizing and streamlining acts and regulations, we're fostering a better business climate, to create jobs and grow Ontario's economy.

## MOTIONS

### HOUSE SITTINGS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Motions? Motions? Last call for motions.

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** Sorry—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Well, you made it in the last call.

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** Mr. Speaker, I'm sorry for my delay there.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, for my delay.

I believe we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice regarding the House schedule.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The Minister of Agriculture is seeking unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice. Do we agree? Agreed.

Minister.

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** I move that, notwithstanding standing order 6(a), when the House adjourns on Thursday, September 15, 2016, it shall stand adjourned until Wednesday, September 21, 2016, so all members of this House can attend the International Plowing Match, which will be held in Wellington county.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Mr. Leal moves that, notwithstanding standing order 6(a), when the House adjourns on Thursday, September 15, 2016, it shall stand adjourned until Wednesday, September 21, 2016.

Do we agree? Agreed. Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

## STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY AND RESPONSES

### LOCAL FOOD WEEK

#### SEMAINE DES ALIMENTS LOCAUX

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** I rise today in the House in recognition of Ontario's third annual Local Food Week, taking place from June 6 to June 12.

In 2013, our government developed a local food strategy intended to raise awareness of local food and beverages and increase access to the great things grown and harvested and made right here in our very own province. The strategy also looks to encourage a competitive and productive agri-food sector in the province of Ontario.

The Local Food Act, which was passed with all-party support in 2013, supports this strategy. It helps promote Ontario foods and beverages so that there are more available in markets, schools, cafeterias, grocery stores and restaurants throughout this wonderful province.

The act also helps to develop new markets for local food and to build on the ever-stronger agri-food sector. Since the passing of the act, we have proclaimed a community food donation tax credit—credit to the member from Sarnia, Mr. Bailey—for farmers who donate to local food banks and other community organizations. We have also established goals related to local food literacy. First, we hope to increase the number of Ontarians who know what local foods and beverages are and where they are available. Secondly, we aim to increase the number of Ontarians who prepare local food meals.

We are currently engaged with stakeholders and communities to establish goals that will help guide the agri-food sector to enhance access to local food. As part of the Local Food Act, we release an annual local food report that charts our government's work with Ontarians and the agri-food sector to bring more local food to more tables right across this great province.

I was pleased to unveil our 2016 local food report earlier this week at Hawthorne Food and Drink here in Toronto. This year's report highlights the progress we have made on our goals to improve food literacy in Ontario and information on our goal of increasing access to local foods.

Mr. Speaker, we're also putting the spotlight on local food champions who are delivering initiatives across the province, like Farm and Food Care Ontario. Of course, as part of the Local Food Act, we've established the Ontario Local Food Week, an opportunity for Ontario farmers, farm organizations, agri-food businesses and consumers to come together to celebrate food and beverages. Many of these local food champions are finding support from our government.

Building on the success of the Local Food Fund, we are allocating \$6 million over the next three years to the Greenbelt Fund to continue to deliver programming, including the new Local Food Investment Fund. Yesterday, we were able to take part in an event that celebrated a new partnership, supported through the Local Food Investment Fund, that will see Subway restaurants across the province using in-season Ontario produce in all their sandwiches.

This morning, we celebrated another local food investment project with our partners the Greenbelt Fund which will see Mohawk College in Hamilton implement a pilot project that will help increase the total value of local food procurement in Ontario's colleges.

Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, I invite you and all colleagues to stop by the annual Queen's Park farmers' market on the south grounds of the Legislature at noon and visit one of the more than 20 Ontario vendors offering delicious examples of local delicacies such as strawberries, turkey and even ice cream.

I encourage everyone to find out what events are taking place in their local communities to celebrate Local Food Week or, better yet, plan their own events. This week is about getting inspired and inspiring others to love, celebrate and support local food. When we support local food, we're helping to foster a strong environment and agri-food sector, create jobs and grow Ontario's economy.

1530

Delivering on our local food strategy will help us meet the Premier's agri-food challenge of creating 120,000 new jobs and doubling the growth rate in this sector. Let me remind the House that Ontario's agri-food sector contributes more than \$35 billion annually to Ontario's GDP and at 5:30 a.m. this morning, more than 780,000 Ontarians were pursuing their careers in agriculture.

This week and every week, I encourage everyone to enjoy the good things that are growing in Ontario. Always remember, Mr. Speaker, that good things do grow in Ontario.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** It is time for responses.

**Mr. Toby Barrett:** Today we do pay tribute to Local Food Week, and tomorrow I think most of us will be out front to savour the farmers' market, courtesy of the Organic Council of Ontario.

Several years ago, this Legislature passed the Local Food Act. It wasn't perfect, but at least it recognized the importance of the production of food for Ontarians in the province of Ontario and as close as possible to market. It did take this government a while to implement provisions of the act that would give farmers tax receipts for donating excess produce to food banks, to those who are less fortunate.

I'm afraid things have gone downhill with the recent budget, with the cuts to the ag ministry—farmers weren't happy about that. The budget was cut: It was reduced from \$943 million to \$916 million, a cut of \$28 million to what I consider a very small ministry as far as funding, but a very important ministry.

We also heard that the RED Program, the Rural Economic Development Fund, was suspended. Again, rural municipalities, certainly down my way, rural communities and small businesses weren't impressed upon hearing that kind of news. My local Norfolk county council supported a resolution from South Dundas, calling for the government to bring back the RED Program, and 66 other municipalities have put forward similar resolutions. It's a program that can, obviously, support local food. Its replacement, regrettably, would set a minimum investment required of \$5 million. That's truly beyond the scope of farmers' markets and so many farm operations, so many grower organizations.

Down in Haldimand-Norfolk, we have a great appreciation for the concept of local food. We're about 100 miles from Toronto, certainly from the Ontario Food Terminal, with respect to fresh produce, as with the Holland Marsh, the Niagara area—and there's many other important horticultural and fresh food areas; Essex county, for example.

Down our way, we can grow just about every horticultural crop you can think of, short of tropical produce, although we used to be known as the banana belt for some reason—I don't know if that referred to the residents. I think it referred to the produce that we grow. But it certainly gives us a unique perspective on local production, local marketing and issues with respect to the local food movement.

We heard mention of the local food report. Last year was the first report. I haven't seen the recent report. I understand it just came out a few days ago. It's a unique concept for this government to actually track progress. Obviously, it would highlight progress from the Local Food Act, and goals with respect to all-important food literacy. I'd like to see the statistics on the tax credit for the food bank donations, and I know there's a pilot fundraising program for students to make use of locally grown produce and vegetables—and the Foodland calendar. I know staff in my office are waiting for that one. I hope they're coming out very soon. We all look forward to the recipes in that calendar.

When we talk about local food we also have to ever keep in mind the importance of export. I think of our hog industry; I think of our cattlemen. We must be on top of exports. We have to have Ontario agribusiness and agri-food at the table and near enough to the table with respect to the ongoing international trade negotiations. Our hog industry exports to 80 countries. Ginseng is a big export crop coming out of my area.

We buy local, we produce local, but we also have to think globally as well.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further members' responses?

**M. John Vanthof:** Monsieur le Président, je prends la parole aujourd'hui devant l'Assemblée législative pour souligner la Semaine des aliments locaux du 6 au 12 juin. La Semaine des aliments locaux est célébrée tous les ans, et cette année, c'est son troisième anniversaire.

Thank you for the speech, Mr. Leal.

It's an honour for me to be able to stand on behalf of Andrea Horwath and our NDP caucus to talk about Local Food Week, which is June 6 to 12. Coming from northern Ontario, I hope there are things down here that are growing, that you can eat already, because we just finished planting. There is nothing to eat except maybe asparagus.

Sometimes we wonder why it's so early, but we are incredibly fortunate in this province that we have access to the great food that's available here. It's a good initiative that we create more access because I remember, as a farmer, that local produce had trouble getting into supermarkets because it wasn't uniform enough. That's changing. I think that's a big advancement for us all.

When we really think about local food, we think about farmers' markets. As the minister mentioned, there is going to be a great farmers' market on the lawn of Queen's Park tomorrow.

There are great farmers' markets across the province, as there are in my riding. I'm going to mention a couple of them in my riding. We have one in Temagami; we have one in Cochrane; we have one in Temiskaming Shores; we have one in Evanturel township; and, on July 2, at 9 a.m., we are going to open in my riding the Mill Market in Iroquois Falls. That's a great moment for them. Iroquois Falls has had some tough times, and they're rebounding and looking for other opportunities. I'd like to congratulate them for that.

June is also Dairy Month. If you think about that, dairy has been local food before people knew what local food was. That's mostly because of a unique system we have in Canada called supply management. That protects farmers from price volatility, and also it protects the market and it assures consumers that they get a great product at a fair price. That's more local than almost anything I can think of.

So if you're thinking about local food and you want a dairy product, check where it's made. A good way to check is if it's got a little blue cow; that ensures that it's Canadian, but that also—

**Hon. Jeff Leal:** Kawartha Dairy.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** As the minister said, Kawartha Dairy. I was going to start off with Thornloe Cheese, a great cheese factory in my riding. There is Chapman's Ice Cream in Mr. Walker's riding, I believe. There are all kinds of great local dairy.

There are also things that we could do to make local food more accessible. We shouldn't just sit on our laurels. We should look at issues that we can fix. One issue that especially further processors face is hydro costs. They have to compete. Even local food has to compete because if it's too high priced, people will shy away. People only have so much money to spend, so hydro cost is a big one.

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We have to make sure that we harmonize regulations, because in some cases, products that can be sold at one market from a vendor cannot be sold at another market, even though it's exactly the same product. If it's safe at one market, it should be safe at another market. We work on it locally, but that's something we have to make sure gets done across the province.

Another one: When farmers try to further process their food, their production, so they can sell it, often their taxes go through the roof, because MPAC looks at it as more of a commercial-industrial. So it's a huge roadblock. That's something that we have to work together—or independently, but we have to get this done, because there would be a lot more local food if farmers could actually afford to process their own production. That's a big point. There are things we can do to make this province have even more access to the greatest food not only in the country but in the world.

## PETITIONS

### AUTISM TREATMENT

**Ms. Sylvia Jones:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the Minister of Children and Youth Services announced on March 29th that children with autism over five years old will be ineligible to receive intensive behavioural intervention (IBI) therapy; and

"Whereas in 2014-15 there were 16,158 children with autism on the wait-list for IBI and applied behavioural analysis (ABA) therapy; and

"Whereas approximately 3,500 children with autism that are on the wait-list or currently receiving therapy in Ontario will be ineligible to receive IBI therapy as a result of the minister's decision; and

"Whereas children over the age of five still respond to therapy and IBI remains their best shot at learning to communicate with the world around them and developing a degree of independence;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly as follows:

"That the Minister of Children and Youth Services reverse her decision and allow children over five years old to have access to IBI therapy."

I support this petition, affix my name to it and give it to Emma to take to the table.

### POST-SECONDARY SECTOR EMPLOYEES

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** I'm reading this petition for the first time. It is entitled "Supporting Fair Pay and Fair Wages in the Post-Secondary Sector."

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas the government is obligated to spend public dollars in a manner which delivers quality services and supports the sustainability of the province; and

"Whereas post-secondary institutions in Ontario receive over \$5 billion in public funds, and act as a critical pillar of Ontario's economy; and

"Whereas post-secondary institutions rely on the livability of the local communities as a contributing factor in attracting both student applications and qualified staff, as well as maintaining their global competitiveness; and

"Whereas studies show that living wages improve productivity, significantly reduce training costs, reduce worker absenteeism, provide for healthier communities with broader economic growth, and significantly increase the livability of a community; and

"Whereas there is an emerging trend in post-secondary institutions to substitute good-paying jobs with contracted-out services which rarely offer any benefits or pensions and do not provide fair pay and hours of work;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to end the practice of

contracting out front-line jobs, and provide fair, stable hours of work as well as equitable remuneration.”

It’s my pleasure to affix my signature and give this petition to page Thomas.

### SPEED LIMITS

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** It gives me great pleasure to bring to the House a petition on behalf of my colleague the MPP from Ottawa Centre, Yasir Naqvi.

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas we must always strive to improve road safety for Ontario’s pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists;

“Whereas current research shows that reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h dramatically reduces the number of pedestrian fatalities and lessens the extent of injuries incurred during an accident;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario amend the Highway Traffic Act to set the default speed limit to 40 km/h on residential streets and 30 km/h in school zones across the province.”

It gives me great pleasure to support this petition, sign it and give it to page Jacob.

### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mr. Jim McDonell:** I have over 700 signatures on this petition. It’s to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas Ontario’s growing and aging population is putting an increasing strain on our publicly funded health care system; and

“Whereas since February 2015, the Ontario government has made an almost 7% unilateral cut to physician services expenditures which cover all the care doctors provide to patients; and

“Whereas the decisions Ontario makes today will impact patients’ access to quality care in the years to come and these cuts will threaten access to the quality, patient-focused care Ontarians need and expect;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care return to the table with Ontario’s doctors and work together through mediation-arbitration to reach a fair deal that protects the quality, patient-focused care Ontario’s families deserve.”

I agree with it and will pass it off to page Daniel.

### SERVICES FOR THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED

**Miss Monique Taylor:** I have a petition that was sent to me by Roseanne Partridge from the good riding of Brant. It reads as follows:

“Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas changes over the last several years to the amount of funding that is provided for individuals with

developmental disabilities and the way it is provided has created significant upheaval for many families; and

“Whereas the cost of caring for an individual with developmental disabilities has been significantly underestimated and current funding through programs such as ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program) does not cover the cost of living independently with dignity; and

“Whereas these costs are significant for a middle-income family; for a lower-income family they can be impossible; and

“Whereas the waiting lists that people find themselves on are daunting with nearly 23,000 people in Ontario languishing on waiting lists and decades of chronic underfunding of the developmental services sector is placing in peril children and adults who have an intellectual or developmental disability, their families and the agencies that support them; and

“Whereas the current funding (SSAH) is spread so thin that the average allocation to families is \$4,200 a year, which translates into \$350 per month, or approximately a maximum of eight hours of support a week (paying minimum wage); and

“Whereas many aging parents who are the primary caregivers to their adult children with disabilities, some well into their nineties, are unable to cope and worry deeply about what will happen to their adult children when they die;

“Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“To commit to adequate levels of funding within two (2) years to:

—eliminate waiting lists for individually appropriate housing and support for adults with developmental disabilities that choose to or need to live outside of their parental home;

—support family members who choose to care for their adult children with developmental disabilities instead of putting that extra burden on the system, allowing parents to stay at home with less financial strain;

—increasing tax deductions for families caring for their adult children with developmental disabilities to help relieve the financial burden.”

I agree with this petition. I’m going to give it to page Mélina to bring to the Clerks’ table.

### BLOOD DONATION

**Ms. Ann Hoggarth:** “To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas current legislation prevents homosexuals from donating blood, we request action to allow blood to be donated by homosexuals in the same manner that heterosexuals are allowed to donate.

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

—to make changes which will allow all people to donate blood equally, regardless of sexuality;

“—to have mandatory screening decide if blood donation should be permitted in the blood bank;

“—to stop the current homophobic stereotyping of donors.”

I agree with this petition. I affix my name and send it down with page Nadine.

#### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** “Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas Ontario’s growing and aging population is putting an increasing strain on our publicly funded health care system; and

“Whereas since February 2015, the Ontario government has made an almost 7% unilateral cut to physician services expenditures which cover all the care doctors provide to patients; and

“Whereas the decisions Ontario makes today will impact patients’ access to quality care in the years to come and these cuts will threaten access to the quality, patient-focused care Ontarians need and expect;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care return to the table with Ontario’s doctors and work together through mediation-arbitration to reach a fair deal that protects the quality, patient-focused care Ontario’s families deserve.”

I thank the OMA for this petition. I sign it and pass it down to the table with page Alexandra.

#### HEALTH CARE

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** This is petition entitled “Ontarians Need Access to Medical Specialists.”

“To the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care:

“Whereas the Ontario government collects incomplete ... data on wait times, accounting only for the time it takes between treatment recommendation and medical procedure, but fails to account for the wait time that occurs prior to the initial specialist intake appointment; and

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“Whereas there is currently no mechanism in place to accurately measure and track the time between referral to a specialist and the initial specialist appointment; and

“Whereas Ontario is behind international standards for specialist wait times, particularly in the specialties of neurosurgery, gastroenterology and rheumatology; and

“Whereas many Ontarians are forced to wait several months, or even years, before getting treatment from a specialist in Ontario;

“We, the undersigned,” petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to have the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care “... create a mechanism to accurately and effectively track complete wait times to see specialists in Ontario, with the goal of ultimately reducing wait times for patients and families.”

It’s my pleasure to affix my signature and give this to page Nava.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

**Mrs. Marie-France Lalonde:** It is a great pleasure to bring to this Legislature a petition on behalf of my colleague the MPP from Ottawa Centre, Yasir Naqvi.

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas climate change is not a distant threat and is already costing the people of Ontario;

“Whereas Ontario is establishing itself as a leader on climate change action and science by building a strong, low-carbon economy, which will help avoid irreparable damage to our environment, and leave a legacy of a healthy planet for our children and our children’s children;

“Whereas Ontario released the climate change action plan in 2007, which included targets of 6% below 1990 emission levels by 2014 and 15% below 1990 levels by 2020; and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050;

“Whereas cap-and-trade programs in other jurisdictions like Quebec and California have been proven to reduce emissions;

“Whereas a cap-and-trade program will set a limit on greenhouse gas pollution, reward innovative companies, provide certainty for industries and improve our quality of life;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the Legislative Assembly of Ontario supports a cap-and-trade system as an effective mechanism to fight climate change.”

It is with great pleasure that I support this petition, I sign my name and I give it to page Daniel.

#### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“Whereas Ontario’s growing and aging population is putting an increasing strain on our publicly funded health care system; and

“Whereas since February 2015, the Ontario government has made an almost 7% unilateral cut to physician services expenditures which cover all the care doctors provide to patients; and

“Whereas the decisions Ontario makes today will impact patients’ access to quality care in the years to come and these cuts will threaten access to the quality, patient-focused care Ontarians need and expect;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care return to the table with Ontario’s doctors and work together through mediation-arbitration to reach a fair deal that protects the quality, patient-focused care Ontario’s families deserve.”

I will give it to Waleed. Thank you, Waleed.

## DENTAL CARE

**M<sup>me</sup> France G  linas:** I have this petition that comes from pretty well all over Ontario, and it reads as follows:

“Whereas thousands of Ontarians live with pain and infection because they cannot afford dental care;

“Whereas the promised \$45-million dental fund under the Poverty Reduction Strategy excluded impoverished adults;

“Whereas the program was designed with rigid criteria so that most of the people in need do not qualify; and

“Whereas desperately needed dental care money went unspent and was diverted to other areas even though people are still suffering without access to dental care;

“We ... petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“To do all in its power to stop the dental fund from being diverted to support other programs; and

“To fully utilize the commissioned funding to provide dental care to those in need,” including adults.

I fully support this petition, will affix my name to it and ask page Colleen to bring it to the Clerk.

## HOUSING SERVICES CORP.

**Mr. Ernie Hardeman:** I have a petition here to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“Whereas there are 168,000 families on the waiting list for affordable housing in Ontario, which is more than ever before; and

“Whereas social housing providers in Ontario are being forced to pay millions extra for natural gas and insurance because the government won’t allow them to opt out of purchasing through Housing Services Corp.; and

“Whereas the Housing Services Corp. is marking up the cost of natural gas and insurance to cover their own expenses; and

“Whereas the Housing Services Corp. has spent money on European travel, alcohol and expensive meals; and

“Whereas the Housing Services Corp. has lost money in questionable investments including a shell company in Manchester, England, and over \$1 million to a solar panel company; and

“Whereas the bill introduced by MPP Hardeman would increase accountability and allow social housing providers to save millions simply by purchasing insurance and natural gas at the best price;

“Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the government House leader immediately schedule the Housing Services Corporation Accountability Act to move forward in the legislative process.”

I affix my signature as I wholeheartedly agree with this petition.

## PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC ASSETS

**Miss Monique Taylor:** I have a petition that was so graciously signed by John Gallagher from Huntsville. It reads as follows:

“Hydro One Not for Sale! Say No to Privatization.

“Petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas the provincial government is creating a privatization scheme that will lead to higher hydro rates, lower reliability, and hundreds of millions less for our schools, roads, and hospitals; and

“Whereas the privatization scheme will be particularly harmful to northern and First Nations communities; and

“Whereas the provincial government is creating this privatization scheme under a veil of secrecy that means Ontarians don’t have a say on a change that will affect their lives dramatically; and

“Whereas it is not too late to cancel the scheme;

“Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“That the province of Ontario immediately cancel its scheme to privatize Ontario’s Hydro One.”

I couldn’t agree with this more. I’m going to affix my name to it and give it to page Alexandra to bring to the Clerk.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** The time for petitions is over.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Point of order, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Point of order, the government House leader.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Speaker, I believe you will find we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notion regarding Bill 116, An Act to proclaim Correctional Services Staff Recognition Week.

I also want to quickly introduce my deputy minister, Matthew Torigian, chief of staff Jackie Chokette and senior policy adviser Jacqueline Tasca in the House.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** You got one by me at the end, there. You’re not supposed to; you know that.

Do we agree? Agreed.

Government House leader?

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** I move that the order for second reading of Bill 116, An Act to proclaim Correctional Services Staff Recognition Week, be immediately called; and

That the question on the motion for second reading be put without debate or amendment; and

That the bill be ordered for third reading; and

That the order for third reading of Bill 116 be immediately called; and

That the question on the motion for third reading of the bill be put without debate or amendment; and

That the votes on second and third reading may not be deferred pursuant to standing order 28(h); and

That in the case of any division relating to any proceedings on the bill, the division bell shall be limited to five minutes.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Mr. Naqvi has moved that the order for second reading—

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Dispense.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** It has been dispensed.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF RECOGNITION WEEK ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 SUR LA SEMAINE DE LA RECONNAISSANCE DU PERSONNEL DES SERVICES CORRECTIONNELS

Ms. Naidoo-Harris moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 116, An Act to proclaim Correctional Services Staff Recognition Week / Projet de loi 116, Loi proclamant la Semaine de la reconnaissance du personnel des services correctionnels.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

### CORRECTIONAL SERVICES STAFF RECOGNITION WEEK ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 SUR LA SEMAINE DE LA RECONNAISSANCE DU PERSONNEL DES SERVICES CORRECTIONNELS

Ms. Naidoo-Harris moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill 116, An Act to proclaim Correctional Services Staff Recognition Week / Projet de loi 116, Loi proclamant la Semaine de la reconnaissance du personnel des services correctionnels.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Agreed? Agreed.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

### WORKERS DAY OF MOURNING ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 SUR LE JOUR DE DEUIL POUR LES TRAVAILLEURS

Mr. Hatfield moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill 180, An Act to proclaim a Workers Day of Mourning / Projet de loi 180, Loi proclamant un Jour de deuil pour les travailleurs.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Mr. Hatfield.

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** I rise today to speak about those who have died on the job in Ontario, and I rise to speak for those who have been injured at work and who continue to fight for dignity, respect and justice.

**1600**

I am also here to show my respect for the families of the workers killed, maimed or suffering from a debilitating illness because of the conditions they had to put up with at work.

The 28th day of April is the Workers Day of Mourning. It's the only day of the year that we pause to reflect and to honour those who, through no fault of their own, fail to return home safe and sound. We share the day with their families and remind them that we will never forget their loss. We demonstrate our solidarity and our ongoing commitment to the memory of their loved ones.

Their lives had real meaning for us. We worked alongside those people. What happened to them could just as easily have happened to us. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Each year, we recommit to mourn for the dead and to fight for the living. This bill will ensure that April 28 remains designated as the Workers Day of Mourning, and it will standardize the way we show our respect for the dead and injured and their families.

No longer will publicly funded institutions be allowed to ignore the significance of the Day of Mourning. Flags will be lowered to half-mast at every publicly funded elementary school and every high school. Educators should be encouraged to use the Day of Mourning as a teaching tool.

Flags will be lowered at Ontario's colleges and universities. Flags will be lowered at our hospitals. Flags will be lowered at our municipal buildings, our libraries, our fire halls, our museums, our arenas and our police stations. More people will become aware of the Workers Day of Mourning. More young people will be asking questions.

The lowered flag is a symbol, a powerful symbol of respect for the Day of Mourning. It brings attention to our shared loss. It shows our continued commitment to safer working conditions. Families who have suffered a loss see a lowered flag and know they are not alone on this day.

Far too many young people are still being injured or killed on the job. Not enough attention is being paid to health and safety training. We, as adults, tell our teenagers not to drink and drive. We tell them not to text and drive. But how many of us encourage them to think about their health and safety in the workplace, maybe at a local fast food restaurant, or a grocery store, or on the farm, or on a plant floor?

Accidents can happen in a split second and have lifelong consequences. At school, educators look after

their students. They protect them and keep them safe. In the workplace, people are busy and you're more or less on your own, expected to keep up and do your share of the work. Young workers new to a job site are three times more likely to be injured during their first month at work than older workers with more experience.

In Ontario, we lose well over 370 workers a year from accidents or illness from work-related diseases. Across Canada, that number is more than 970. There is something like 200,000 new claims opened each year at Ontario's Workplace Safety and Insurance Board; 54,000 are for lost-time accidents. In the construction industry alone, on average in Ontario 20 workers are killed each and every year.

We need more health and safety inspectors. Last year, ministry inspectors issued more than 130,000 orders of non-compliance. Some see it as the cost of doing business. Fines get levied against those in violation of the health and safety standards. Last year, those fines totalled more than \$9.3 million.

People are killed or injured, companies pay their fines and business continues. We must do more to make health and safety a priority.

My hat goes off to the family of David Ellis. He was killed on the job 17 years ago. He was just 18 years old. Since then, his family has been talking to students and anyone else who will listen about safe workplaces and health and safety training.

Young workers need to be educated about the dangers of a workplace. You see, Speaker, there was a bakery in Oakville. Ministry inspectors ordered the owners to install a low-cost safety switch on a mixer. They didn't get around to it. David Ellis gets hired, and his second day on the job he's left alone on the plant floor. There are no supervisors around. It's not like school; no one's looking after him. He's cleaning the mixer with the faulty safety switch. David Ellis was sucked into that mixer and killed—18 years old, his second day on the job.

His family has made it their life's mission to educate young people about workplace safety. They've reached out to legislators and others, reminding us to make health and safety in the workplace more of a priority. I thank them for that, Speaker. Their passion and dedication work wonders and we have listened to what they've had to say.

In Tilbury, at a plastics factory, second day on the job for Jared Dietrich—little or no training. Jared was caught in a conveyor belt in a foam-recycling machine—a horrible death. He was 19, just starting out in the Ontario workforce. That was 17 years ago. The company was fined \$40,000.

Two weeks before last Christmas, in Windsor, 19-year-old Michael Maukonen was on a residential roofing job. No one saw what happened, but Michael fell from the roof. He's still in critical condition in a coma. He's had two operations to relieve pressure on his brain, and another one to stop the bleeding in his spleen. His parents have been at his bedside day and night. They just don't know if he's going to make it. A hockey and baseball

star, he was a high school graduate working to save money so he could become an electrician.

Most people in Toronto still remember Christmas Eve, 2009. Four men fell 13 storeys to their deaths from what is known as a swing stage while working on a Toronto high-rise. Initially, their employer was fined \$200,000. The appeals court boosted that fine to \$750,000, and just this past January the manager of that construction project was sentenced to three and a half years in jail. That sentence is under appeal, but the message has been sent and has been heard loud and clear: Kill a worker, go to jail.

We realize no financial penalty, no time behind prison bars can bring back a worker who was killed on the job. None of that can undo the pain felt by the family members who are left behind. But it certainly sends a message to other employers: Do more training, and make the health and safety of your workers a priority or face jail time.

Health and safety must become more of a priority in Ontario. Together we can make our workplaces safer for everyone. We owe it to David Ellis, to Jared Dietrich, to Michael Maukonen. We owe it to our children and our grandchildren. We need to make sure we do everything we can so when they get a job, go to work and get the training they need for the work they do, they come home safe and sound each day afterward.

We must do more to help our injured workers get the attention they need, the compensation they deserve. They shouldn't be treated as criminals for filing a claim. The medical reports from their doctors shouldn't be rejected out of hand. We shouldn't be running mathematical scenarios and telling someone who would benefit from an electrical leg that, based on these mystical, theoretical equations, he may only live for another eight years so it isn't cost-effective, and so he'll have to make do with what he has.

That cynicism is not what's needed. That's not the Ontario most of us want to live in. That's not my Ontario. That way of reasoning is no way to show respect for the injured worker. It brings no dignity to the conversation. If anything, it should make us all call out for justice for that injured worker and say, "Give him the new leg. He's sacrificed enough already, for God's sake."

1610

Speaker, the Canadian Labour Congress makes health and safety a priority, as does the Ontario Federation of Labour. Vern Edwards, the OFL's director of occupational health and safety, appeared at committee when we held a public hearing on this bill. Mr. Edwards spoke of the need to raise awareness, as he has seen people die a slow, agonizing, painful death from occupational diseases and cancers. He spoke of a 19-year-old young man who, on his third day on the job, suffered burns to 90% of his body, the worst case the dedicated folks at the Ross Tilley regional burn centre unit at Wellesley Hospital had ever seen.

Karl Crevar is here today. He's a representative of the Ontario Network of Injured Workers. He came to the

committee as well. Karl just finished a stint on the road crew for a 600-kilometre bike ride made by injured workers Richard Hudon and Peter Page. They were joined by injured workers' advocate Allen Jones. They cycled from Windsor to Chatham, Wallaceburg, Sarnia, London, Brantford, St. Catharines, Hamilton, Mississauga and came here to Queen's Park—as you know, Speaker—on June 1. That's 600 kilometres. June 1, as you know, is Injured Workers' Day in Ontario. They were doing their part to raise awareness to the plight of injured workers in this province.

Karl is also an Ontario rep to the Canadian Injured Workers Alliance. He told me after the committee that what this government should do is build a monument to killed and injured workers on the precinct grounds here at the Legislature. I agree. I hope we can make that happen someday.

I want to thank Karl and Vern. I want to thank each and every one of the men and women who work with their local labour councils each year to host the Day of Mourning ceremonies.

Down my way, Rolly Marentette and Tracie Edward have been doing it for the Windsor and District Labour Council. Surviving family members come out each year to share their stories and how their lives have been impacted by their loss. This keeps us connected, so that we don't forget people such as Elie Seremach, Johnny Hunt, Cindy Libby and Claudio Cardoso.

Speaker, in 2014, in Windsor and Essex county, we had eight workplace fatalities. One is bad enough; eight is unbelievable. It's outrageous. It shouldn't be happening. I'm not blaming the government for this. I applaud the government for making falls-from-heights training mandatory. I believe the work being done by Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer is having a positive effect.

Some 90% of workplace deaths are preventable. Let's raise awareness and prevent more of them. We must keep the pressure on our employers to make sure that they provide the training and the proper equipment, and make health and safety a priority for the people they hire.

This bill will help raise awareness. I hope that next April our local media outlets will highlight health and safety issues and turn the spotlight on the Day of Mourning ceremonies. Together, we can make Ontario a safer place to work.

Lowering the flags is, without a doubt, a symbolic gesture. Lowering the flag at every elementary school, high school, hospital, college, university, city hall, town hall, fire hall, police station, library, museum, arena—any place that benefits from provincial funding—will start the conversation. This will show everyone we're taking workplace safety very seriously in Ontario.

Yes, we'll mourn for the dead, but we'll be fighting harder for the living, for their right to come home from work as healthy as they were when they left for their job in the morning. And we'll show our injured workers that they are respected. They should be treated with the

dignity they deserve and we'll fight with them for the justice they deserve.

I want to thank all members of the House for their attention and for their support of this bill. We are doing this for all the right reasons. It makes sense, it's overdue and it's the right thing to do.

Let's send the message: The Workers Day of Mourning means something in Ontario, and more of us should respect that and do everything we can to keep people safe at work.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Further debate?

**Hon. Kevin Daniel Flynn:** Thank you to the member from Windsor-Tecumseh for introducing a bill that I hope will enjoy the pleasure of this House, because it's a bill that is worthy of support. As Minister of Labour, to be able to stand today and support this bill is something special. Often, the parties down here find themselves at loggerheads, but on this issue, I think there's going to be agreement in the House.

I'll be speaking, and then I know that the member from Trinity-Spadina has something to say on this.

Shortly after I became the Minister of Labour, I had somebody come into my boardroom and they said, "Wouldn't it be good if it didn't matter what audience you were speaking to as Minister of Labour and that you mentioned something about health and safety?" They said, "It didn't matter if you were talking to a group of educators, or to lawyers or environmentalists. Just mention health and safety."

I've tried to do that. Everywhere I've gone, I've tried to raise the issue of health and safety. Often I'm greeted with blank stares. Often you'll be talking to a group and you get the feeling that what they're saying to you with their eyes is, "This has nothing to do with me. I don't work in a high-hazard place. I'm an office worker," or "I'm a lawyer."

But I find that when I talk to them in terms of their role as a parent or a grandparent, or an uncle or an aunt, that their eyes change a little bit and there seems to be some interest, because all of a sudden, they realize that perhaps there is a role for them in this whole issue.

When I do that, I ask them to think about the very first day their son or daughter came home and they'd just got a job. Somebody had interviewed them, there had been a competitive process, there had been an interview process, and the person had picked your son or daughter and said, "We want you to work for us."

Well, they're walking about four feet off the ground when they come home. They're feeling pretty good about themselves. They're going to go in to work the following morning, and they're going to prove to that person that he or she made the right decision. That's a two-edged sword. There's some good to that, and perhaps there's something that's not so good.

Certainly in the province of Ontario, I think we have a work ethic that's second to none. It's how we've built this province up. It's how we enjoy the lifestyle that we do. We're hard workers.

Often that young person will go in and will work as hard as they can. In their zeal to impress, though, sometimes they'll do something they shouldn't do. Sometimes they'll put their hand somewhere where it shouldn't go. Sometimes what they'll do is take a shortcut in terms of impressing their supervisor, to show they can do it quicker.

Speaker, what do we do as parents? I'm as guilty as anybody. The member mentioned it in his remarks. Think of that day. If you're like most parents in the province of Ontario, you asked your son or daughter three questions. You asked them how much money they were going to make. You asked them if they got a uniform. You asked them if you had to pick them up after work. Right? Three very normal questions that any parent in this province would ask.

Not many of us stop and ask if they know what to do if they're asked to do something they're not sure about, or if they feel unsafe, or if they've never done it before. We don't tell them that they have the right to refuse unsafe work, that they can just stop, politely step back and say, "I don't want to do this until you tell me a little bit more about this. I need to understand this better."

As I said, I was as guilty as anybody when my own son came home with a job at Dairy Queen. I didn't ask him anything to do with health and safety. As it turned out, everything went pretty good.

But I didn't make the second mistake when he got himself a job in a place that had a lot of hazards associated with it. That is, as many of you will know, the Big Becky project. We put a tunnel under Niagara Falls. It's a huge boring machine. It would be about the height of this room, this chamber. It just dug a 12-kilometre-long tunnel under the city of Niagara Falls and came up into the river.

Speaker, he got a job down there, and this time I did speak to him. This time, I just said to him, "Nigel, don't do anything stupid. There are a lot of people down there that know what they're doing. They've done this work for a long time. If you ever feel like you're in an unsafe situation or you're unsure, go and speak to that person."

Those of you that know the project will know that this boring machine chewed its way through the ground. The rock came off. It went through a series of hoppers onto a shrouded conveyer belt, so the rock wouldn't fall off the conveyor belt. Whatever the length of the tunnel was, that was the length of the conveyor belt at that time. As they bored in, they added sections to the conveyor belt. The rock came out of the end of the tunnel, went up—I don't know—50 to 100 feet in the air, went over the Niagara River, and the rock got dropped on the island in the middle of the Niagara River.

1620

Speaker, my son didn't really have to be there, but somebody was working in that general area, so he just stayed in the area, because he thought something might happen. As it turns out, there was a gentleman who was working on the belt and in the hoppers, and as my son was walking away, this gentleman tumbled into the

hopper. He went through the hopper and ended up on the conveyor belt. There were only two people who knew he was on the conveyor belt—the conveyor belt was shrouded; you couldn't see the belt. There was the gentleman himself who had fallen in and was in no condition to do anything about it, and there was my son, because he had stuck around. So he ran out, pulled the cord and stopped the belt. They pulled the man out. He was injured very, very badly. They took him to get some medical care. As a result of this, the man was fired. They gave my son a \$75 gift certificate to Best Buy for doing this. It did have a happy ending, and that is, the man got his job back and he recovered from his injuries. As it turned out, he wasn't just a tradesperson. He actually owned a bar and a restaurant in Niagara Falls, and my son has free drinks and food for the rest of his life as a result of doing this.

Speaker, that's a roundabout way of saying that if you're not going to do it for the right reasons, maybe there's something in it for you—but it's also the value of that brief conversation. I didn't have a long conversation with him. I didn't sit him down for two hours. It's a very brief thing, just to pay attention. If you're asked to do something that's a little unsafe, think about it, talk about it with the people down there. I'd ask each one of the members to have that little conversation with young people they know—as I said, not a preachy two-hour barrage on them, but just mention it to them. You never know when it will come to the point where it can actually save somebody's life. I'll tell you, as a parent, there won't be any better phone call you'll ever get in your life than when your son or daughter calls you and says, "Dad, I think I saved somebody's life today." That's a pretty special phone call.

It's one of those things that I think if we're able to change the culture, the way that the member is trying to do with his private member's bill, if we start to get younger people talking about health and safety, the way that the recognition of lowering the flags on the Day of Mourning will do to young people—young people will look at that flag mast on that day and ask, "Why is it lowered?" That's the chance to start that conversation. That's the chance to make sure they understand what this day is all about.

By the time today is out, 17 more young people in this province will be injured to the point that they won't be able to go to work tomorrow—17 each and every day. The average is about 6,000 a year. It's just too many. When you talk about the tragic circumstances that surrounded the Ellis family—that gets repeated around the province far too often.

Ontario is one of the safest places to work. We've made huge progress. Since 2003, we've reduced incidents by somewhere between 45% and 50%. That's something we should be very, very proud of, but we shouldn't be satisfied with that for one minute, because there's so much more to do. Also, in the province of Ontario, as I speak, in about a decade we've reduced the number of incidents involving young people by about

75%. So we're making some terrific progress, but I don't think any one of us in this chamber should be satisfied until we've stopped it entirely, and the way we do that is to change the culture.

What the member from Windsor–Tecumseh is doing today, I think, is taking a big step forward in changing that culture. I think that deserves the support of each and every one of us in the House. It's something that I think is going to be meaningful and long-lasting.

We do what we can and we have blitzes that are aimed at protecting young people throughout the summer when it comes to occupational health and safety, when it comes to employment standards.

We also go and do new-and-young-worker health and safety blitzes each and every year. This year's blitz will be the ninth in a row when we promote It's Your Job, a province-wide online video contest. Young people come forward, do videos and compete with each other. It speaks out about people exercising their workplace rights, and it gets young people before they even get into the workplace. We've got young people talking about that.

My generation didn't do that; we should have. If we had done that, I'm convinced lives would have been saved in this province.

We've got the Bring Safety Home campaign and the My Safe Work campaign. Rob Ellis, as the member from Windsor–Tecumseh said, travels around the province of Ontario. Those of you who have been in a high school know how hard it is to get an auditorium full of young people to be quiet. Rob Ellis has no problem doing that. When he tells the story of what happened to his son, you can hear a pin drop and you can tell that the message is getting home.

So, by supporting the member from Windsor–Tecumseh today, I think we're just advancing the cause of health and safety in this province. The impact it's going to have on young people is going to be something that is marked.

I know it's got to be a very, very special feeling to get a private member's bill passed from the opposition parties. I've never served in opposition and hope I never do. I'll tell you, it feels pretty good from this side, though, to be able to support a member of the opposition as he's trying to do something that I think is really meaningful.

We include health and safety now, Speaker. We're one of the very few places in the world to include health and safety in our curriculum. It's part of the curriculum now from kindergarten to grade 12.

As a result of the passage of this bill, and I hope it passes, when those flags get lowered on the Day of Mourning next year, I think we're going to have a different conversation in the schools in this province. We owe it all to the member from Windsor–Tecumseh for bringing forward an excellent idea. I'll be supporting it, and I urge everybody else to.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Further debate?

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** I'm very pleased to have this opportunity to speak in support of Bill 180, the Workers Day of Mourning Act, 2016, standing in the name of the member for Windsor–Tecumseh, and to indicate that I will be supporting this bill at third reading as well.

I expressed support at second reading. I was pleased to be at standing committee where the bill had admittedly limited public hearings, but public hearings nonetheless, which I think allowed a number of views to come forward to inform the third reading debate.

It's an important bill, and I want to commend the member for Windsor–Tecumseh for bringing it forward, as I did at second reading. I think he deserves enormous credit for coming forward with an idea that everyone can get behind and support in this House. I hope it's going to be a unanimous vote at third reading, although I wouldn't want to prejudge—you never want to do that around here. But at the same time, I would anticipate and expect that this bill will pass unanimously at third reading. There seems to be obviously a lot of support for the bill and for what the member is proposing.

Again, this bill would proclaim April 28 as Workers Day of Mourning each year in the province of Ontario. It would require that all Canadian and Ontario flags flown outside government of Ontario buildings be flown at half-mast on April 28. This provision would apply to the Legislature here at Queen's Park, government of Ontario buildings, courthouses and other buildings, including city and town halls, schools, school board offices, universities, colleges, hospitals, board of health, fire departments, ambulance services, police, crown agencies and any other organization prescribed by regulation as we might consider going forward. We're talking about government of Ontario buildings, as well as broader public sector buildings.

Again, this would serve to raise awareness about the need to continue to do more as a society, as a government, as employers, as employees—all of us, including the work that we do here in the Legislature—to encourage a culture of workplace safety and make our workplaces safer over time.

This bill was introduced for first reading March 23, just a few months ago, Mr. Speaker, and received second reading on April 7. We had the committee stage, as I said earlier, on June 2. Today, of course, it has been called for third reading and most likely the vote that will see it passed into law.

I am pleased to see Karl Crevar here. I ran into him in the elevator, actually, on the way up. It's great that he is here. He spoke very eloquently at the standing committee when we had the public hearings. He was also joined by his colleague Vern Edwards, who is the director of occupational health and safety for the Ontario Federation of Labour. Karl, of course, is with the Ontario Network of Injured Workers Groups.

1630

I just want to quickly quote from the hearings that took place. Again, this is from Vernon Edwards. He said to the committee:

"In my almost 24 years at the OFL, I have learned that workers die in ways more horrible than even Stephen King can imagine. For those of you who may not be familiar with Stephen King, he's an American author of contemporary horror and supernatural fiction.

"Some of the examples I've experienced over the years:

"—a worker pulled through a shredder feet first—no guarding, no shut-off controls;

"—a young man, at the age of 19, on his third day on the job, suffered burns to 90% of his body, and that day, he was the worst burn case Wellesley Hospital had ever seen;

"—workers killed in explosions, where there's nothing much left other than bits of bones and charred flesh to put in the casket;

"—falls from great heights, such as what happened with Metron Construction Corp. a number of years ago, where four workers were killed and one young man was so badly wounded that he'll probably never be the same again;

"—another young worker, David Ellis, whose father and brother have been out there campaigning across Ontario for better health and safety.

"David's brother was here April 7 when second reading of this bill occurred.

"Then we see workers die slow, agonizing, painful deaths from occupational diseases and cancers.

"The Day of Mourning is the day labour and our community partners come together to remember those who have died as a result of their work."

It was compelling testimony at the standing committee.

We also heard from Karl Crevar. What he said was, I think, very important and bears repeating here today too:

"It is long overdue. We've been advocating for something like this for a number of years because for the workers killed in the workplace, as we started down the road for April 28, the Day of Mourning, that's what it was. We had workers gather at monuments for workers who were killed, remembering not just the workers killed, but also the families who were the survivors.

"We are pleased to see that this is going forward, and I would reiterate the words of Vern from the OFL that all-party support be given to this bill. It will send a very strong message to the community that workers do matter. People who are either hurt or killed on the job do matter, and they should be so recognized. They're the workers who build our country, build our province and build our cities. Therefore, they should have that honour of being recognized on that particular day."

Again, I agree completely with what Mr. Crevar said and what I just repeated in the House about the need to ensure that there is appropriate recognition for these workers and their families.

Our caucus believes that recognizing April 28 as a Workers Day of Mourning will continue to help raise awareness about the need to be more vigilant about workplace safety. We say that the Day of Mourning

provides an opportunity to remember those who have been killed or injured in the workplace and to show support for their families.

It's also estimated that up to 90% of workplace deaths are preventable. The PC caucus believes that we must all work together to improve workplace safety, with the goal of preventing any death in the workplace.

It is also important to point out that April 28 was chosen as the National Day of Mourning because it was on April 28, 1914, more than 100 years ago, that Ontario proclaimed the first comprehensive workers' compensation act in Canada. According to CUPE, Workers' Memorial Day was started by CUPE in 1984. The Canadian Labour Congress officially declared it as its annual day of remembrance in 1985.

In April 1988, the Ontario Legislature unanimously passed a resolution calling on the government to declare April 28 as a day of mourning in recognition for victims of work-related injury and disease. The resolution was brought forward by then-NDP leader—he would have been Leader of the Opposition at that time too—Bob Rae.

The government of Canada has recognized April 28 as the National Day of Mourning going back to 1991. That would have been, of course, the Progressive Conservative government of Brian Mulroney.

The Day of Mourning is recognized in at least 80 countries around the world, and some comments have suggested that it's recognized in as many as 100 countries.

According to the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, in 2014 there were 919 workplace deaths recorded in Canada. That was up from 902 in 2013, so the trend is going in the wrong direction, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, this informs the debate that we're having today and also should inspire us to resolve to do better and to do more. This represents an average of just over 2.5 deaths each and every day. Imagine: Today, on average, we will lose two to three workers. The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety reports that from 1995 to 2014, 18,039 people lost their lives due to work-related causes across Canada, an average of 918 deaths per year.

In sum, again, I want to congratulate and commend the member for Windsor–Tecumseh for bringing this forward. It's not often that private members' bills pass into law, so this is, indeed, a significant achievement and he deserves credit for it. But I also think it gives us an opportunity, as members, to show our support. Certainly, with our votes today, hopefully we can support this important legislation. It does send a strong signal across the province that we need to do more to make sure that our workplaces are safe.

I know that my colleague the member for Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke is also going to speak. We only have 20 minutes from our side. The member from Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke is one of the most powerful and eloquent speakers, and I'm sure he has got a lot to say about this. I think we're going in rotation, so he

doesn't get to go just next, but I certainly look forward to hearing his remark. He's the whip, so I'm trying to compliment him.

At the same time, we look forward to the other comments that will take place during the course of this debate. We again congratulate the member from Windsor-Tecumseh for the great work that he has done on this issue.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Further debate?

**Mr. Wayne Gates:** It's a pleasure to rise on the day of mourning act, Bill 180.

Most of my colleagues in the House today know my background. I came from the shop floor at General Motors in Niagara. Each and every day, I worked around machinery. I saw my friends working around the plant, around dangerous equipment. It was very dangerous then, and it's very dangerous today.

When I began representing my brothers and sisters of CAW Local 199 in workplaces, I knew I had to take a look for their safety. I had to make sure that when we were fighting for things like pay raises, benefits and pensions, we were fighting equally as hard for health and safety.

Quite frankly, no one should have to go to work and not know if they're going to come home at the end of the day. Every single person in the province of Ontario has a right to safe work—not the privilege; I believe they have a right. When accidents happen, it shatters lives, it shatters communities and it shatters that particular workplace.

Unfortunately, I've seen it first-hand. On November 4, 1998, when I was president of my local union—Unifor 199 today—I was called; a worker in General Motors, in the plant, had been killed at the start of his shift. That worker's name was Joel Murray. Joel had a family. He had children. He had friends in the plant and in the community. And he had a wonderful wife, Wendy.

Walking Joel's body out of the plant that day was the hardest thing that I've ever had to do, and it's something I hope no one else in the province of Ontario should ever have to do again. I pray that no one else knows what it's like to lose a friend in the workplace, but I know we are so far from that goal. I know we are far away from addressing workplace illnesses as well.

But I'm going to talk a little bit about Joel because I only have four minutes. I thought I had a few more. Joel Murray had a son and a daughter. That morning, we had to call his wife to tell them Joel had died. He coached the local hockey team; he coached his son's hockey team. When we went to the funeral, all those young boys wore their sweaters and their sticks. We were able, at that funeral home, to commit that we were going to put a monument in front of the arena that would honour Joel, honour him in that community. We've done that.

1640

Since 1998, I've gone to that arena every single April 28, Percy. I've watched his wife get remarried. I've watched the kids grow up. I've watched his daughter get

married. She has three children now—his grandchildren. I watched her son get a job as a mechanic—again, working in a very dangerous job.

You know what happens when people get killed on the job? Joel Murray, my friend, never got to see his wife again. He never got to see his kids grow up. He never got to see his grandchildren. This was an accident that was preventable. You hear that 90% of workplace accidents are preventable. This one was preventable.

It's important that we pass this bill, but it's equally important so people never, never forget that we understand that when we go into a workplace, we have to make sure that health and safety is followed.

I congratulate my good friend Percy for bringing this forward.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Further debate?

**Mr. Han Dong:** I'm very pleased to speak on this very important matter. I congratulate the member from Windsor-Tecumseh for introducing this bill and for engaging in this debate on this very important issue. I echo what the Minister of Labour said: This gives us an additional opportunity to talk to our young people about workplace safety. I thank the member from Niagara Falls for that very touching story.

I support the formal recognition of April 28 as the Workers Day of Mourning.

More than 20 years ago, the Canadian Labour Congress declared April 28 a National Day of Mourning for workers who had been killed or suffered disease or injuries as a result of work. Every year since, unions, labour councils, families and community partners gather by the thousands to mourn for the dead. What began through the efforts of Canada's labour movement is now observed in more than 100 countries.

As the member mentioned, in 1988 this Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution recognizing April 28 as a Day of Mourning for workers. Many members of this Legislature, including the Minister of Labour, attend the ceremony each year.

I also support flags being flown at half-mast to raise awareness of the Workers Day of Mourning. The act would require that all Canadian and Ontario flags outside the legislative building, government of Ontario buildings, and other buildings such as city and town halls, court-houses, schools, universities, colleges and hospitals be flown at half-mast on that day.

This would help to start the conversation with young people about health and safety in the workplace. I can see that in schools teachers can start telling young people—those future members of our labour force—the importance of this issue.

I remember that when I was in high school, when I was a 16-year-old, I took on a job to work at a restaurant. I would start my shift around 4 o'clock and end around midnight. I would work two days a week. I remember that when I biked home, my mother would be waiting for me at the door. Now I understand. I used to tell her, "Don't worry about it. Everything's going to be okay."

Now I have my own kids, and I understand that life is full of uncertainty.

As parents, we do worry about our kids when the kids are out there, whether it's at school, whether it's attending a field trip, whether it's working—especially at the workplace. Anything can happen.

I think it's very important for us to have this opportunity to tell young people that they've got to be safe and look after them.

I think it also gives an additional opportunity for mainstream media and multicultural media to cover the significance of this day.

At the constituency office, I have constituents coming to me and telling me about their experience at workplaces. They certainly raise some alarm bells at times.

I think that in different languages those most vulnerable members of our labour force will have an additional opportunity to learn about workplace safety.

Workers who are new to their job, including young workers, are three times more likely to be injured in the first month than at any other time. Our government has launched several initiatives to protect young workers in seasonal, part-time and temporary employment. For example, our province-wide inspection blitzes on health and safety focus on protecting young workers throughout the summer. And Ontario is one of the only places in the world to require occupational health and safety education in schools. That is very important. The Ministry of Labour has conducted a new and young worker health and safety blitz annually for the past eight years. This year's blitz will be the ninth.

I want to share with the House some stats that I found. According to the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada, 439 people died at work in 2007. In 2014, that number went down to 289. That's a significant decrease, and I want to congratulate the current Minister of Labour and his predecessor for their good job at the Ministry of Labour. This is certainly some result, a small part of the larger picture that we can put our finger on.

Protecting young workers is part of the government's continued commitment to prevent workplace injuries and illness through the Safe At Work Ontario enforcement initiative.

Canadian flags on Parliament Hill and at Queen's Park already fly at half-mast on April 28. The day is traditionally marked in many ways, including holding public ceremonies, wearing black and yellow ribbons, lighting candles, observing a moment of silence at 11 a.m. and sharing stories about how workplace tragedies have touched many, many Ontarians' lives. This would assist to further raise awareness of the Workers Day of Mourning and thereby strengthen the province's commitment to the health and safety in all workplaces in Ontario, helping to prevent additional deaths, injuries and diseases in future.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Further debate?

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** It's a pleasure to join this debate today on Bill 180. I want to congratulate the

member from Windsor–Tecumseh for bringing forth this bill and congratulate him for what we expect will be its successful passage this afternoon.

I want to talk about April 28, the recognized Day of Mourning. It's been recognized all across the country for many, many years. In my riding, if I recall—and it precedes my time as the MPP—I think Barney McCaffrey, a well-known musician and storyteller in my riding and a wonderful activist, was one of the prime movers in having the Workers Day of Mourning proclaimed in my riding. There's always a ceremony up on top of Shrine Hill in Wilno every year at that time. I haven't made it to all of them, but I wish I could make it to all of them. They are moving ceremonies and there are always some wonderful stories to be told.

The minister talked a little bit about his son. I'm going to talk a little bit about my son Lucas, who is an apprentice carpenter. I know that I was not the safest of workers when I was younger, because I was always in a hurry and I was kind of—like my dad used to say—a bull in a china shop. I was always just wanting to get the job done and maybe not spending enough time worrying about my own safety. So, I tell you, when I talk to Lucas—and I talk to him on a regular basis—that's one of the first things I ask him about: "Are you working safely?" Because I see a lot of myself in my son; he's just a lot better than me. I see a lot of that "get the job done" attitude and sometimes I worry that he's not working safely enough, and I want him to pay as much attention as possible, so I always ask him. That's one of the first things I say: "What were you doing today? Were you working at a good pace and were you working in a way that protects yourself from an unnecessary accident?" Sometimes I believe that he's not, but I think that it's a matter of reinforcement on a regular basis that working safely is as important as getting the job done. Because if you're not working safely, at some point you won't get the job done anyway.

**1650**

I want to talk about how dangerous it can be at work and why it's so important that we recognize those people who have been injured or killed on the job. I want to speak about one of the most dangerous occupations ever, and that is forestry worker. I'm going to talk about three people, and they're going to span a little bit of time.

I'll talk about Bruce Miller first. I didn't know Bruce Miller as a young person. My wife, Vicky, knew him. Bruce was a wonderful young man and a great softball pitcher, a fastball pitcher, who was well known throughout the valley as a guy who was tough to face and tough to hit. Bruce was a logger; Bruce was a forestry worker. Bruce was struck by a tree and had his back broken. Bruce was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He passed away inside of a couple of years ago.

Bruce was a member of our church. He was paralyzed from the waist down, but he took up the guitar and began the Bruce Miller Band. I had the opportunity to sing with Bruce on a number of occasions, and I always felt how special it was, because even though he had so much of his life taken away, he continued to live life to the extent

that he could, by beginning a band and touring all around the valley, and entertaining others and bringing joy to others with the gifts that he still had.

Another young man, Kevin Cybulski, was also confined to a wheelchair and was also a bush worker. Great customers of ours at the hardware store—he was a wonderful young man with a young family, he and his wife, Joanne. He was struck by the top of a tree, in felling a tree, several years ago. Kevin is a quadriplegic. He and his family will deal with that issue for the rest of his life. An accident in the bush has taken away the husband that Joanne had, and the father. Kevin is still there, but he's not the same. It's a struggle in life and will be for as long as he is with us. We have to think about those people as well.

Another young man a couple of years back, Barry Burant, was also a bush worker. He was felling a tree. The tree is coming down and the top breaks off. That's the dangerous part. Barry was struck in the head and killed.

That's three people. I could talk about scores of people I have known in my lifetime, or have known of in my lifetime, who have worked in the forestry business and have either been fatally injured or injured in such a way that they are incapacitated in one way or another. It is one of the most dangerous occupations we know of.

Now technology and changes of equipment have made it much safer. We have equipment today—feller bunchers and tree farmers—that remove a lot of the need for a person to be slashing. A person who cuts trees down is called a slasher. That job is disappearing these days because most of the bigger companies now, the bigger log operations, use feller bunchers and tree farmers that no longer necessitate the use of chainsaws to fell the trees.

But even in your own yard, if you're operating a chainsaw, you're working with what can be one of the most dangerous tools that you'll ever have in your hands. We always have to be vigilant when we're doing anything with our hands. We work in a pretty safe environment here. Sometimes the only thing you have to worry about is the barbs from the other side. The reality is, if you work with your hands and you're building things and constructing things, or working with the land—farming is another very dangerous occupation—we have to make sure that we're doing everything we can to minimize the risk of an accident.

Sometimes it comes without a great deal of warning. But if we take all of the precautions we can—and that's what I keep reinforcing with my son: Make sure that you're thinking ahead in the job, and make sure that you're taking the steps prior to doing the work to ensure that that area you're working in is as safe as possible.

But at the same time, we've come a long way. I accept what the minister says: We have come a long way in advancing worker safety. It is a priority for employers, employees and organized labour unions that this is something we have to put a great deal of emphasis on.

Having said that, we still have accidents and we still have people who lose their lives as a result of workplace

accidents. So what is the very least that we can do in our attempts to eliminate those kinds of events? We have to make sure that in a proper way we commemorate and memorialize those people who, in doing their job to produce some kind of good for others and make this a better province and a better country, have sacrificed either their long-term health or their lives.

How do we commemorate that? One of the simplest ways, and I think one of the most appropriate ways, is to have a Day of Mourning. We have that with April 28.

What the member from Windsor–Tecumseh has done today is expanded that to ensure that the MUSH sector—we all ensure that wherever you are that day, if you're seeing a flag in front of a municipal office, a school, a hospital or here at the Legislature, which we do today, you will see that that flag is at half-mast. If you're talking in the coffee shops or anywhere else and you're asking, "Why is the flag at half-mast today?" people will know that today is the day that we set aside to commemorate those people who have been injured or killed on the job. The fight to deal with that should never stop.

I say to the member for Niagara Falls, who would know this better than anybody, as somebody who represented a labour union as its health and safety representative, that the fight—I don't want to call it a fight, but the task of ensuring that our workers are safe is something that we can never give up on. We will continue to make sure that it is a priority for as long as we have places of work and we have men and women who are doing the work.

Maybe someday we'll have only machines, but I don't see that in my lifetime—

*Interjection.*

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** Well, some jobs we'll never be able just simply to do with machines.

As long as we have brothers and sisters doing those jobs, we've got to make sure that we make those jobs as safe as possible, and in those instances when we don't, to make sure that we commemorate and memorialize them properly.

Thank you very much, and I congratulate the member for his bill today.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Further debate? Second call for further debate.

Pursuant to the order of the House dated Monday, May 30, 2016, I'm now required to put the question.

Mr. Hatfield has moved third reading of Bill 180, An Act to proclaim a Workers Day of Mourning. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Orders of the day. Government House leader.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I rise on a point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe we have unanimous consent to put forward a motion without notice regarding private bills.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** The government House leader has put a motion forward governing private bills. Agreed? Agreed.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** I move that the orders for second reading of the following private bills shall be called consecutively and the questions on the motions for second and third reading of the bills put immediately without debate: Bills Pr32, Pr33, Pr34, Pr35, Pr36, Pr37, Pr39, Pr40, Pr41, Pr42, Pr43, Pr44, Pr45 and Pr46; and

That Mrs. Martow may move the motions for second and third reading of Bill Pr34 on behalf of Mr. Brown; and

That Mr. Vanthof may move the motions for second and third reading of Bill Pr33 on behalf of Mr. Tabuns.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** The government House leader has moved that the orders for second and third reading of the following—

**Interjection:** Dispense.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Dispense? Carried.

*Motion agreed to.*

#### ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL MANAGERS, CLERKS AND TREASURERS OF ONTARIO ACT, 2016

Ms. McMahon moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr32, An Act respecting the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

1700

#### ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL MANAGERS, CLERKS AND TREASURERS OF ONTARIO ACT, 2016

Ms. McMahon moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr32, An Act respecting the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

#### STEPHANIE HOLDINGS LTD. ACT, 2016

Mr. Tabuns moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr33, An Act to revive Stephanie Holdings Ltd.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

#### STEPHANIE HOLDINGS LTD. ACT, 2016

Mr. Tabuns moved third reading of the following bill:  
Bill Pr33, An Act to revive Stephanie Holdings Ltd.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

#### BILL BEDFORD PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION ACT, 2016

Mrs. Martow, on behalf of Mr. Brown, moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr34, An Act to revive Bill Bedford Professional Corporation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

#### BILL BEDFORD PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION ACT, 2016

Mrs. Martow, on behalf of Mr. Brown, moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr34, An Act to revive Bill Bedford Professional Corporation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

#### 1709542 ONTARIO CORPORATION ACT, 2016

Mr. Ballard moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr35, An Act to revive 1709542 Ontario Corporation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

#### 1709542 ONTARIO CORPORATION ACT, 2016

Mr. Ballard moved third reading of the following bill:  
Bill Pr35, An Act to revive 1709542 Ontario Corporation.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

## 839255 ONTARIO INC. ACT, 2016

Ms. Wong moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr36, An Act to revive 839255 Ontario Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

## 839255 ONTARIO INC. ACT, 2016

Ms. Wong moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr36, An Act to revive 839255 Ontario Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

BASE2 EBUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC.  
ACT, 2016

Mr. Dong moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr37, An Act to revive Base2 eBusiness Solutions Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

BASE2 EBUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC.  
ACT, 2016

Mr. Dong moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr37, An Act to revive Base2 eBusiness Solutions Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

CORPORATION OF MASSEY HALL  
AND ROY THOMSON HALL ACT  
(TAX RELIEF), 2016

Mr. Dong moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr39, An Act respecting The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

CORPORATION OF MASSEY HALL  
AND ROY THOMSON HALL ACT  
(TAX RELIEF), 2016

Mr. Dong moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr39, An Act respecting The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

## 828117 ONTARIO LIMITED ACT, 2016

Ms. McMahon moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr40, An Act to revive 828117 Ontario Limited.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

## 828117 ONTARIO LIMITED ACT, 2016

Ms. McMahon moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr40, An Act to revive 828117 Ontario Limited.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

BUD MONAHAN GUITAR  
SALES & SERVICE LTD. ACT, 2016

Mrs. Martow moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr41, An Act to revive Bud Monahan Guitar Sales & Service Ltd.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

BUD MONAHAN GUITAR  
SALES & SERVICE LTD. ACT, 2016

Mrs. Martow moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr41, An Act to revive Bud Monahan Guitar Sales & Service Ltd.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

## 790186 ONTARIO INC. ACT, 2016

Madame Gélinas moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr42, An Act to revive 790186 Ontario Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

## 790186 ONTARIO INC. ACT, 2016

Madame Gélinas moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr42, An Act to revive 790186 Ontario Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

1710

ISMAILI CENTRE, TORONTO,  
AGA KHAN MUSEUM AND AGA KHAN  
PARK ACT (TAX RELIEF), 2016

Mr. Baker moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr43, An Act respecting the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, the Aga Khan Museum and the Aga Khan Park.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

ISMAILI CENTRE, TORONTO,  
AGA KHAN MUSEUM AND AGA KHAN  
PARK ACT (TAX RELIEF), 2016

Mr. Baker moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr43, An Act respecting the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, the Aga Khan Museum and the Aga Khan Park.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

## 1733387 ONTARIO CORP. ACT, 2016

Mr. Dong moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr44, An Act to revive 1733387 Ontario Corp.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

## 1733387 ONTARIO CORP. ACT, 2016

Mr. Dong moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr44, An Act to revive 1733387 Ontario Corp.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB  
OF NIAGARA ACT (TAX RELIEF), 2016

Mr. Gates moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr45, An Act respecting the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB  
OF NIAGARA ACT (TAX RELIEF), 2016

Mr. Gates moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr45, An Act respecting the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

## HAROLD COLES INC. ACT, 2016

Miss Taylor moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr46, An Act to revive Harold Coles Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

## HAROLD COLES INC. ACT, 2016

Miss Taylor moved third reading of the following bill:

Bill Pr46, An Act to revive Harold Coles Inc.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Pursuant to the order of the House earlier today, the question that this House do now adjourn is now deemed to have been made.

## ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** The member for Haldimand–Norfolk has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter, and the minister or parliamentary assistant may reply for up to five minutes.

The member from Haldimand–Norfolk.

**Mr. Toby Barrett:** I requested a late show because I really felt a more fulsome answer was in order for the questions last week concerning Lyme disease and other vector-borne diseases.

This stems from a private member's bill which mandated action after one year of becoming law. Well, it's now been a full year, something like a year and six days, since June 2, 2015, when the bill received royal assent. So we should have this framework from the Minister of Health; we should have this action plan as of June 2 of this year, which was six days ago.

The concern—and we live in a global society with changing environments. Diseases are changing. Those in charge need to be prepared, and so do the rest of us. When new or relatively unknown diseases advance, public health disease treatment systems are often found to be unprepared. Again, public health will scramble to respond, as do treatment systems, but, in many cases, with less than satisfactory success.

My question: Do we now have programs in place designed to not only accommodate some of the diseases that I mentioned, like Lyme disease and West Nile virus, but also any new threats—the possibility of the Marburg virus, the possibility of the Zika virus—arriving in our province?

Lyme victims continually tell me that diagnosis of what initially ailed them was not an easy task. Many have reported the health care system just is not there for them. Lyme disease victims often pay out of their own pocket to be not only diagnosed, but to be treated in the United States.

A private member's bill, entitled the Provincial Framework and Action Plan concerning Emerging Vector-Borne Diseases Act, became law, as I said, a year ago in June. The law was designed to address some of the shortfalls in research and the shortfalls in our medical system, and to establish a framework and guidelines for dealing with these ailments and to establish guidelines for disseminating information and education.

I have a line from an email that was sent to me, actually, just after I asked this question. A victim contacted me. I've received a number of emails from people talking about travelling to the States and spending thousands of dollars. Very recently, I learned one person spent \$150,000 on treatment for their child. There's a sense of real desperation in these emails. They make it very clear: Ontario's health care system failed them, with doctors who, in the worst cases, ridiculed them, and financial despair from paying American dollars to American health practitioners.

I'll quote one message I just received a couple of days ago: "Every time we cross the border, they lean in the window, when we explain we're going for medical treatment, and they ask, 'Well, who has Lyme?' That's the assumption at the border. That's how many Canadians cross to the US to get treatment."

There's obviously a lot of work to be done in respect to not only treatment, but just ongoing management and ongoing care—beyond any thought of a cure. The treatment of Lyme disease is really fraught with conflicting medical, scientific, political and social dimensions and disputes, long overdue for resolution. Social media has also been accused of communicating inaccurate medical

information and pitches for dubious treatment, which has proven to be true in a number of cases.

There's also, on the other side of it, allegations of shortcomings in the diagnosis and the treatment of Lyme directed at mainstream medicine. This is why we have the various mechanisms and the institutions within our Ontario government. We have government for a reason. The purpose of that legislation, which received royal assent well over a year ago—the deadline is now up for the mandated action. We have government for a reason: We have government to sort through the research, answer these kinds of questions and help resolve these kinds of questions for the lay public, who, in many cases, have nowhere to turn and no idea where to go. Thank you.

1720

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** The member from Halton and the parliamentary assistant has up to five minutes.

**Ms. Indira Naidoo-Harris:** I'm pleased to rise today and speak about an issue that's on the minds of many Ontarians. I'm pleased to be able to explain the ways our government is updating and strengthening Lyme initiatives in our province.

Our government is committed to protecting the people of Ontario from Lyme disease. We know that this disease can be dangerous and even deadly. That's why we recognize how important it is to make sure the public understands the risk, knows what to do to avoid it, and recognizes what to do in a potentially dangerous situation.

Our government is strongly committed to evidence-based decision-making to ensure patients get the care they need. That's why we are developing a provincial Lyme disease action plan. The action plan will ensure strengthened engagement and collaboration with stakeholders and it will promote close alignment in Lyme initiatives at federal, provincial and local levels. That's very important.

We know how important it is to make sure we have the most current information and to get that information into the hands of Ontario residents. The action plan will include a review and update of existing public awareness and education materials, guidance documents and tick surveillance protocols. To support this review, our government launched a Lyme disease stakeholder group. That group's mission was to lead a review on existing Lyme disease educational outreach opportunities. The stakeholder group will provide advice to the ministry on future Lyme disease communications and education and awareness strategies.

Also as part of the action plan, Public Health Ontario will be reviewing and updating Ontario's 2012 technical report on Lyme disease prevention and control, because, as we all know, prevention is the key. Public Health Ontario will also deliver continuing medical education events in primary care settings. In addition, our government will release a new online CME module on Lyme disease for Ontario physicians.

The Infectious Diseases Society of America, the American Academy of Neurology and the American College of Rheumatology will produce a guideline for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme disease. The release of this new guideline document by the IDSA will inform further updates on Lyme disease guidance documents in Ontario.

In the fall of 2014, Ontario partnered with the Public Health Agency of Canada on a two-year Lyme disease pilot project to enhance Lyme-related resources available to the province. The ministry will continue to work collaboratively with Public Health Ontario, the Public Health Agency of Canada, public health units, Ontario Parks and other key stakeholders to identify new areas of risk and provide Lyme disease information to the public and health care providers.

We know that the presence of ticks has increased in parts of the province, and we know that this is a concern for families and young people out there in our province. We understand the public is concerned, and so are we. We are doing everything we can to ensure that we are making the right decisions.

That's why we're working hard to raise awareness and increase prevention of Lyme disease. That's why we're working hard with all levels of government on this important health issue. And that's why we're working hard on creating an action plan that is evidence-based and will protect the people of Ontario. Thank you very much.

#### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** The member from Kitchener-Conestoga has given notice of dissatisfaction with the answer to a question given by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. The member has up to five minutes to debate the matter and the minister or parliamentary assistant may reply for five minutes.

The member from Kitchener-Conestoga.

**Mr. Michael Harris:** Yes, I did ask for this late show debate to indicate my complete dissatisfaction with the response from the Minister of Health to my question on long-promised, long-undelivered cardiac care funding to St. Mary's hospital, serving the people of Waterloo region. Specifically, as I noted yesterday, while Waterloo region has historically benefited from some of the best health care this province has to offer, this government's foot-dragging on a four-year-old funding promise to St. Mary's hospital is forcing cardiac care patients to head to other parts of the province for the care they should be receiving right at home in the region.

Patients, doctors and hospital staff have been waiting four years for the minister to deliver on what was then a promising commitment from the then Liberal MPP John Milloy to fund the St. Mary's hybrid electrophysiology suite/cath lab for surgery and diagnosis. Four years later, St. Mary's and its near-100-year history of serving the people of Waterloo region is at a crossroads as that still-undelivered funding has meant St. Mary's remains the

only one of 11 full-service regional community hospitals in Ontario still waiting for this vital lab. Instead of funding, the minister's response featured more talk of the ministry "looking at the issue" and more talk of discussions with former MPP Milloy's replacement in Kitchener Centre.

Speaker, it has been four years. Surely there has been time to move past the talking stage. Talk doesn't build EP labs and doesn't perform the procedures that our residents are having to wait twice as long for as those in other parts of the province.

People in my area are waiting six to eight weeks for the diagnostic catheterization that some communities can provide with same-day service, as reported on the CCN. We need more than talk. We need the lab that was committed to and approved way back in 2012.

So you can understand, Speaker, my dissatisfaction when I'm met with responses from the minister, on one hand, boasting about more talk while, on the other, taking swipes at my voting record for voting against the Liberal budget.

(1) This majority government didn't need my support, of course, to pass the budget.

(2) If the budget—and I quote the minister—"contained elements that precisely respond to these sorts of questions," then why the heck, now that the budget is passed, are we still waiting for action at St. Mary's?

(3) The suggestion that we in the official opposition don't support health care improvements in my area because we don't support another misguided Liberal budget is a slap in the face to the vital work of previous PC members who were a lot more about results than empty words.

Speaker, I'll remind this Legislature that while it was John Milloy who issued the 2012 unfulfilled funding promise, it was former PC MPP and Minister of Health the Honourable Elizabeth Witmer who oversaw some of the most important advances to our local hospitals. It was Elizabeth Witmer who, as a tireless advocate for Kitchener-Waterloo, delivered the cardiac care centre to St. Mary's and, of course, the cancer centre to Grand River Hospital.

Again, I don't need lectures on provincial budget votes from the minister. What I need, and what the people of Waterloo region need, is the minister and his local Liberal members to pick up on the legacy of Ms. Witmer and actually deliver the goods.

I want to acknowledge my colleague from Kitchener-Waterloo, Catherine Fife from the NDP, who is significantly supportive of this same initiative. I know she has had meetings and supports our call for these services in our region.

Speaker, it was just in the last year that we've seen an increase in cardiac referrals that the government is failing to provide the support to maintain. As I noted yesterday, while the government spends millions on TV ads to boast about health care investments, demand for cardiovascular services at St. Mary's has soared 25%. They're spending millions on ads, which could be going to fulfill their

funding promises to deliver enhanced cardiac programming to the people of our region.

The longer we in Waterloo region are neglected and the longer we wait, the more we can expect to see predictable outcomes as people simply get tired of waiting. We can only wait so long when health care is on the line, as lack of government support can lead to:

- increased wait times for both in-patient and outpatient procedures;
- longer lengths of stay at St. Mary's;
- potential negative clinical outcomes; and
- staff layoffs in the face of end-of-fiscal year slowdowns or shutdowns.

As I mentioned yesterday, staff recruited specifically for programming in the EP lab are being forced to make decisions and head for the exits. I find it unacceptable that government delays are having a direct impact on the health care treatment in the region.

So I will repeat the question and, this time, hope for an actual answer that addresses the immediate needs of our residents and our proud hospital: Will the Premier or the Minister of Health commit today to end the waiting game and deliver the cardiac care funding for St. Mary's that was promised four years ago?

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** The parliamentary assistant, the member from Ottawa South, has five minutes to respond.

**Mr. John Fraser:** It's a pleasure to respond to the member from Kitchener-Conestoga. I know he just had a lengthy response down in estimates, and I'll try to do that justice. If anybody wants to check Hansard, if there's anything that I miss, you'll find it there.

I know that the member from Kitchener Centre has been advocating, too. She has met with Don Shilton, the president of the hospital, and is working very closely with him and also with the cardiologists.

I also want to recognize the member from Kitchener-Waterloo.

I know that these services are important to all our families and that we all advocate for these things. So I just want to back up and talk a little bit about how we got to where we are today with the question.

We know that we have 19 advanced cardiac centres that offer services throughout the province that require a comprehensive cardiology program which includes pre- and post-procedure care. Services offered at these cardiac centres include, but are not limited to, cardiac surgery, angioplasty/percutaneous coronary intervention, cardiac catheterization and a pacemaker program.

In 2012, the government communicated its support, in principle, for a full arrhythmia program at St. Mary's General Hospital. In 2012, that same year, St. Mary's General Hospital was provided with a little bit under a million dollars—\$892,500—in base funding to support Waterloo-Wellington patients who had received their implantable cardioverter defibrillator—ICD—implant outside their region and had returned to St. Mary's General Hospital for monitoring and follow-up care. In

2013, an ICD program was launched at St. Mary's General Hospital with the support of an additional \$2.2 million in funding. With these investments, St. Mary's General Hospital received support for patient monitoring and program stabilization while the ICD program matured, with the expectations that these funds would be realigned to support implementation of the full arrhythmia program at a later date. In, I think, 2016, we provided a total of \$31 million to St. Mary's General Hospital for its cardiac program.

In July 2015, the Cardiac Care Network reviewed a proposal for an advanced arrhythmia program, including ablations, to be located at St. Mary's General Hospital. The review demonstrated that:

- opening an ablation program at St. Mary's General Hospital will create the needed capacity to decrease wait times for patients within their respective LHINs;

- expanding the arrhythmia services offered at St. Mary's General Hospital to include ablation procedures has the potential to provide an increase in capacity for ablation services in Ontario; and

- that there would be sufficient volumes—which is critical.

I know, that volumes are critical when you're planning a program, because about 14 years ago, in my community, the government tried to remove our pediatric cardiac care program; they tried to take that out of our city. So I know where members are coming from. When you look at those services, we're talking about building services here.

I know, from the answer that the member received from the minister, the deputy and, I believe, the assistant deputy minister, that we are working together with the hospital to further develop this program, that there is a capital component, and that the commitment for operating funds is there. That capital planning process, as part of the functional program of the hospital, is critical to ensure that you know what it is you're building and that the investment that you make, which is in the millions of dollars, is an investment that is going to last for a period of time and give you the things that you need: that you don't under-build; that you make sure you don't over-build; that you ensure that things like HVAC, infection control and all those things that are inside that project are there and are going to meet the standards that we need to ensure that we have a program that is sustainable over a long period of time.

I know, from the response that the member got from the minister in estimates, that it's very clear that we're supportive of this program, and we look forward to moving forward.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** There being no further matter to debate, I deem the motion to adjourn to be carried.

This House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow morning.

*The House adjourned at 1734.*

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO**  
**ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO**

Lieutenant Governor / Lieutenante-gouverneure: Hon. / L'hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OOnt.

Speaker / Président: Hon. / L'hon. Dave Levac

Clerk / Greffière: Deborah Deller

Clerks-at-the-Table / Greffiers parlementaires: Todd Decker, Tonia Grannum, Trevor Day, William Short

Sergeant-at-Arms / Sergent d'armes: Dennis Clark

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
Albanese, Laura (LIB)	York South–Weston / York-Sud–Weston	
Anderson, Granville (LIB)	Durham	
Armstrong, Teresa J. (NDP)	London–Fanshawe	
<b>Arnott, Ted (PC)</b>	Wellington–Halton Hills	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House / Premier vice-président du comité plénier de l'Assemblée
Bailey, Robert (PC)	Sarnia–Lambton	
Baker, Yvan (LIB)	Etobicoke Centre / Etobicoke-Centre	
Ballard, Chris (LIB)	Newmarket–Aurora	
Barrett, Toby (PC)	Haldimand–Norfolk	
Berardinetti, Lorenzo (LIB)	Scarborough Southwest / Scarborough-Sud-Ouest	
Bisson, Gilles (NDP)	Timmins–James Bay / Timmins–Baie James	
<b>Bradley, Hon. / L'hon. James J. (LIB)</b>	St. Catharines	Chair of Cabinet / Président du Conseil des ministres Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Deputy Government House Leader / Leader parlementaire adjoint du gouvernement Leader, Official Opposition / Chef de l'opposition officielle
Brown, Patrick (PC)	Simcoe North / Simcoe-Nord	
Campbell, Sarah (NDP)	Kenora–Rainy River	
<b>Chan, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Markham–Unionville	Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade / Ministre des Affaires civiles, de l'Immigration et du Commerce international
<b>Chiarelli, Hon. / L'hon. Bob (LIB)</b>	Ottawa West–Nepean / Ottawa-Ouest–Nepean	Minister of Energy / Ministre de l'Énergie
Clark, Steve (PC)	Leeds–Grenville	Deputy Leader, Official Opposition / Chef adjoint de l'opposition officielle
Coe, Lorne (PC)	Whitby–Oshawa	
Colle, Mike (LIB)	Eglinton–Lawrence	
<b>Coteau, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Don Valley East / Don Valley-Est	Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport / Ministre du Tourisme, de la Culture et du Sport Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism Minister Responsible for the 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games / Ministre responsable des Jeux panaméricains et parapanaméricains de 2015
Crack, Grant (LIB)	Glengarry–Prescott–Russell	
<b>Damerla, Hon. / L'hon. Dipika (LIB)</b>	Mississauga East–Cooksville / Mississauga-Est–Cooksville	Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Long-Term Care and Wellness) / Ministre associée de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée (Soins de longue durée et Promotion du mieux-être) Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Minister of Transportation / Ministre des Transports
<b>Del Duca, Hon. / L'hon. Steven (LIB)</b>	Vaughan	
Delaney, Bob (LIB)	Mississauga–Streetsville	
Dhillon, Vic (LIB)	Brampton West / Brampton-Ouest	
Dickson, Joe (LIB)	Ajax–Pickering	
DiNovo, Cheri (NDP)	Parkdale–High Park	
Dong, Han (LIB)	Trinity–Spadina	
<b>Duguid, Hon. / L'hon. Brad (LIB)</b>	Scarborough Centre / Scarborough-Centre	Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure / Ministre du Développement économique, de l'Emploi et de l'Infrastructure
Fedeli, Victor (PC)	Nipissing	
Fife, Catherine (NDP)	Kitchener–Waterloo	
<b>Flynn, Hon. / L'hon. Kevin Daniel (LIB)</b>	Oakville	Minister of Labour / Ministre du Travail
Forster, Cindy (NDP)	Wendell	
Fraser, John (LIB)	Ottawa South / Ottawa-Sud	

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
French, Jennifer K. (NDP)	Oshawa	
Gates, Wayne (NDP)	Niagara Falls	
Gélinas, France (NDP)	Nickel Belt	
<b>Gravelle, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Thunder Bay–Superior North / Thunder Bay–Superior-Nord	Minister of Northern Development and Mines / Ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Gretzky, Lisa (NDP)	Windsor West / Windsor-Ouest	
Hardeman, Ernie (PC)	Oxford	
Harris, Michael (PC)	Kitchener–Conestoga	
Hatfield, Percy (NDP)	Windsor–Tecumseh	
Hillier, Randy (PC)	Lanark–Frontenac–Lennox and Addington	
Hoggarth, Ann (LIB)	Barrie	
Horwath, Andrea (NDP)	Hamilton Centre / Hamilton-Centre	Leader, Recognized Party / Chef de parti reconnu Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario / Chef du Nouveau parti démocratique de l'Ontario
<b>Hoskins, Hon. / L'hon. Eric (LIB)</b>	St. Paul's	Minister of Health and Long-Term Care / Ministre de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée
Hudak, Tim (PC)	Niagara West–Glanbrook / Niagara- Ouest–Glanbrook	
<b>Hunter, Hon. / L'hon. Mitzie (LIB)</b>	Scarborough–Guildwood	Associate Minister of Finance (Ontario Retirement Pension Plan) / Ministre associée des Finances (Régime de retraite de la province de l'Ontario)
<b>Jaczek, Hon. / L'hon. Helena (LIB)</b>	Oak Ridges–Markham	Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Minister of Community and Social Services / Ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Jones, Sylvia (PC)	Dufferin–Caledon	Deputy Leader, Official Opposition / Chef adjointe de l'opposition officielle
Kiwala, Sophie (LIB)	Kingston and the Islands / Kingston et les Îles	
Kwinter, Monte (LIB)	York Centre / York-Centre	
Lalonde, Marie-France (LIB)	Ottawa–Orléans	
<b>Leal, Hon. / L'hon. Jeff (LIB)</b>	Peterborough	Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs / Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales
<b>Levac, Hon. / L'hon. Dave (LIB)</b>	Brant	Speaker / Président de l'Assemblée législative
<b>MacCharles, Hon. / L'hon. Tracy (LIB)</b>	Pickering–Scarborough East / Pickering–Scarborough-Est	Minister of Children and Youth Services / Ministre des Services à l'enfance et à la jeunesse Minister Responsible for Women's Issues / Ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
MacLaren, Jack (PC)	Carleton–Mississippi Mills	
MacLeod, Lisa (PC)	Nepean–Carleton	
Malhi, Harinder (LIB)	Brampton–Springdale	
Mangat, Amrit (LIB)	Mississauga–Brampton South / Mississauga–Brampton-Sud	
Mantha, Michael (NDP)	Algoma–Manitoulin	
Martins, Cristina (LIB)	Davenport	
Martow, Gila (PC)	Thornhill	
<b>Matthews, Hon. / L'hon. Deborah (LIB)</b>	London North Centre / London- Centre-Nord	Deputy Premier / Vice-première ministre Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy / Ministre responsable de la Stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté President of the Treasury Board / Présidente du Conseil du Trésor Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry / Ministre des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts
<b>Mauro, Hon. / L'hon. Bill (LIB)</b>	Thunder Bay–Atikokan	
McDonell, Jim (PC)	Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry	
McGarry, Kathryn (LIB)	Cambridge	
McMahon, Eleanor (LIB)	Burlington	
<b>McMeekin, Hon. / L'hon. Ted (LIB)</b>	Ancaster–Dundas–Flamborough– Westdale	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing / Ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement
McNaughton, Monte (PC)	Lambton–Kent–Middlesex	
<b>Meilleur, Hon. / L'hon. Madeleine (LIB)</b>	Ottawa–Vanier	Attorney General / Procureure générale Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs / Ministre déléguée aux Affaires francophones
Milczyn, Peter Z. (LIB)	Etobicoke–Lakeshore	
Miller, Norm (PC)	Parry Sound–Muskoka	

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
<b>Miller, Paul (NDP)</b>	Hamilton East–Stoney Creek / Hamilton-Est–Stoney Creek	Third Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House / Troisième vice-président du comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
<b>Moridi, Hon. / L'hon. Reza (LIB)</b>	Richmond Hill	Minister of Research and Innovation / Ministre de la Recherche et de l'Innovation Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities / Ministre de la Formation et des Collèges et Universités
Munro, Julia (PC)	York–Simcoe	
<b>Murray, Hon. / L'hon. Glen R. (LIB)</b>	Toronto Centre / Toronto-Centre	Minister of the Environment and Climate Change / Ministre de l'Environnement et de l'Action en matière de changement climatique
Naidoo-Harris, Indira (LIB)	Halton	
<b>Naqvi, Hon. / L'hon. Yasir (LIB)</b>	Ottawa Centre / Ottawa-Centre	Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services / Ministre de la Sécurité communautaire et des Services correctionnels Government House Leader / Leader parlementaire du gouvernement
Natyshak, Taras (NDP)	Essex	
<b>Nicholls, Rick (PC)</b>	Chatham-Kent–Essex	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House / Deuxième vice-président du comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
<b>Orazietti, Hon. / L'hon. David (LIB)</b>	Sault Ste. Marie	Minister of Government and Consumer Services / Ministre des Services gouvernementaux et des Services aux consommateurs
Pettapiece, Randy (PC)	Perth–Wellington	
Potts, Arthur (LIB)	Beaches–East York	
Qaadri, Shafiq (LIB)	Etobicoke North / Etobicoke-Nord	
Rinaldi, Lou (LIB)	Northumberland–Quinte West	
<b>Sandals, Hon. / L'hon. Liz (LIB)</b>	Guelph	Minister of Education / Ministre de l'Éducation
Sattler, Peggy (NDP)	London West / London-Ouest	
Scott, Laurie (PC)	Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock	Deputy Opposition House Leader / Leader parlementaire adjointe de l'opposition officielle
<b>Sergio, Hon. / L'hon. Mario (LIB)</b>	York West / York-Ouest	Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Deputy Leader, Recognized Party / Chef adjoint du gouvernement
Singh, Jagmeet (NDP)	Bramalea–Gore–Malton	
Smith, Todd (PC)	Prince Edward–Hastings	
<b>Sousa, Hon. / L'hon. Charles (LIB)</b>	Mississauga South / Mississauga-Sud	Minister of Finance / Ministre des Finances
Tabuns, Peter (NDP)	Toronto–Danforth	
Takhar, Harinder S. (LIB)	Mississauga–Erindale	
Taylor, Monique (NDP)	Hamilton Mountain	
Thibeault, Glenn (LIB)	Sudbury	
Thompson, Lisa M. (PC)	Huron–Bruce	
Vanthof, John (NDP)	Timiskaming–Cochrane	
Vernile, Daiene (LIB)	Kitchener Centre / Kitchener-Centre	
Walker, Bill (PC)	Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound	
Wilson, Jim (PC)	Simcoe–Grey	Opposition House Leader / Leader parlementaire de l'opposition officielle
<b>Wong, Soo (LIB)</b>	Scarborough–Agincourt	Deputy Speaker / Vice-présidente
<b>Wynne, Hon. / L'hon. Kathleen O. (LIB)</b>	Don Valley West / Don Valley-Ouest	Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs / Ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales Premier / Première ministre Leader, Liberal Party of Ontario / Chef du Parti libéral de l'Ontario
Yakabuski, John (PC)	Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke	
Yurek, Jeff (PC)	Elgin–Middlesex–London	
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Vacant	Scarborough–Rouge River	

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la politique sociale**

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Vice-Chair / Vice-président: Jagmeet Singh  
Granville Anderson, Lorne Coe  
Vic Dhillon, John Fraser  
Marie-France Lalonde, Gila Martow  
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Peter Tabuns  
Committee Clerk / Greffier: Katch Koch





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**Legislative Assembly  
of Ontario**

First Session, 41<sup>st</sup> Parliament

**Assemblée législative  
de l'Ontario**

Première session, 41<sup>e</sup> législature

**Official Report  
of Debates  
(Hansard)**

**Journal  
des débats  
(Hansard)**

**Thursday 9 June 2016**

**Jeudi 9 juin 2016**

Speaker  
Honourable Dave Levac

Président  
L'honorable Dave Levac

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday 9 June 2016

# ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

Jeudi 9 juin 2016

*The House met at 0900.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Good morning. Please join me in prayer.

*Prayers.*

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LA LOI FAVORISANT UN ONTARIO SANS FUMÉE

Resuming the debate adjourned on June 8, 2016, on the motion for third reading of the following bill:

Bill 178, An Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act / Projet de loi 178, Loi modifiant la Loi favorisant un Ontario sans fumée.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** When we last debated this bill, the member for Nickel Belt had the floor.

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** It will be a pleasure to talk about Bill 178. I had a little bit of time yesterday to basically explain that we are talking about the Smoke-Free Ontario Act at the same time that a mega change is coming in our country. This mega change, we all know what that is. It is that using cannabis will become legal in our country, and that means it will become legal in our province. There is a huge, pent-up demand from people who want this to happen. That's fine. It will be happening. It's a promise that was made.

But, Speaker, everybody understands that the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy are to help people quit smoking. It's to make sure that new people do not pick up the habit and become the next generation of smokers. We all get this. I dream of the day when we have an end strategy—and believe me, Speaker, this is coming. Soon we will have an end strategy in our province so that nobody picks up smoking anymore and nobody smokes anymore. I think I will see this in my lifetime.

But here we are, expecting a change in law that will legalize cannabis for recreational use, and we are debating this bill called the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Why are we debating this bill? Because the Liberal government refused to listen. We just debated that bill about a year ago. We debated it at length, but throughout all of this, the Liberal government had already made up their minds as to what they wanted to see in this bill. They did not listen to the thousands of people who sent emails. They

did not listen to the hundreds of people who came and made deputations. They did not listen to the members of the opposition. They did not take any of our amendments.

And now, a couple months after we did all this work on the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, they realized, "Look at this. We didn't get it right. We need to change four words." But in order to change four words in the bill, you have to go through first reading, second reading, public consultation, third reading—which we're doing now—and royal assent, which will come as soon as our Lieutenant Governor comes back.

This is all time wasted because we have this huge change coming to our province where a lot of people who are non-smokers right now—they're not cigarette smokers, but they are marijuana smokers. And now, we will make that legal. That's good and that's fine. The people of Ontario have been asking for that change for a very long time. But how about, as government, we take our responsibility seriously and look at this through a public health lens? How about, as the Liberal government, showing they take this responsibility seriously? At least have their eyes open to see the tsunami coming toward us of increasing smoking.

There are lots of drugs where I come from. Lots of people smoke cannabis right now illegally, and they're all very much looking forward to doing this legally. But what will that mean, Speaker? Most of them, when they roll, roll with tobacco. As you make it legal, as you make it more accessible, as you make it more available, what are you doing? You are not only allowing people to smoke cannabis more freely—all good with that—you're also putting a lot of people at risk of becoming tobacco smokers once again because it is a whole lot easier to roll a joint when you mix it with tobacco. It holds better. It rolls better. This is what everybody does.

The public health effect of this is well known and well documented. You read the Toronto Public Health report that was just released on May 13, or any other public health report, and you will see it there. The crossover from marijuana to tobacco is there; it's real. Rather than seeing smoking rates go down, we will see them go up. All of this is preventable if the Liberals will only listen.

We have this bill. It will be voted on at noon today. It will pass. But even after all of this, the regulations are still not ready. So now we will have a bill that says "and other prescribed substances"—four words. Although we've known for a long time that those four words needed to be added so that we can deal with cannabis, the regulations are not ready. They've had two years to get the regulations ready.

They will blame us for slowing down the bill. To what avail? The bill will pass this afternoon. The Lieutenant Governor is not here to proclaim royal assent. But it makes no difference because the regulations that will describe what those other prescribed substances are—because the bill doesn't say "marijuana"; it says "and other prescribed substances." The other prescribed substances—we all know it means marijuana—will be defined in regulations that are not ready.

Meanwhile, you have smoking businesses and marijuana businesses opening everywhere. I think on the last count, we're at 83 just in downtown Toronto. You can go to any little city, including my own, and the people are way ahead of the government, although the government knows full well that this is a very big threat to public health. Why are they not acting?

0910

Whenever I ask, they say, "We're waiting for the federal government's change in legislation." Really, Speaker? You cannot do an education campaign to show children, youth and their families that marijuana is not without risk? Really? You need to have the federal government pass a law? Do you really think that, no matter what is in that law, the health effects on young, developing minds will change? None of this will change.

Rather than using millions of dollars to tell us that the health care system is fine, our hospitals are doing well, our home care system is perfect and our long-term-care system is no-fail, use that money to educate people. Use that money to educate our youth so they know: Marijuana, absolutely, is way safer than tobacco—we know that—but it is not without risk. It is not without risk for the developing mind, for the developing brain. The body of evidence is pretty good on that. It has an effect. It has an effect on lowering IQ. It lowers the ability of the brain to develop language skills and many others. It has an effect on mental health for youth. We'll see more depression, more suicide and more severe mental health illnesses, like bipolar disorder, if youth start to use legalized marijuana.

Don't go out with the usual, "Drugs are bad," because we all know that doesn't work. There are evidence-based ways to make sure that youth understand the risks and youth understand a moderate way to take advantage of this new product. Educate youth and educate their parents. Do a strong and robust health promotion campaign.

I was in Estimates yesterday, so I took the opportunity to ask how much money has been put aside for the campaign. You'll be happy to know, Speaker, that it is zero. Not one dollar has been put aside to do this education. Why? The answer I got is that they're waiting for the federal government to change the law.

What do changing a law and educating people about the health effects of recreational cannabis have in common? Apparently, for the Liberals, those two are linked. For the rest of the people in this province, they are not. The health effects of cannabis do not change whether it is legal or illegal. They stay exactly the same, and a good health promotion campaign needs to happen so that

people know that, and so that parents know so they can guide their children. To say that we're going to wait before we do anything—there are responsibilities that fall upon us. We have a bill in front of us. Why aren't we doing that?

The federal government is not going to say what the age of sale is. For example, there are people who say that it should be 25 because of the health effects on the young mind. Others say, "Other jurisdictions put it at 21. It should be 21." Others say it should be 19, the same as alcohol. Why aren't we having those conversations? Why are we allowing this huge vacuum where nobody talks?

When the government doesn't show leadership and doesn't show they have a plan for this tsunami coming at us, then other people take the lead, and unfortunately, most of the other people who have taken the lead have taken the lead in a way in which they could cash in on that, that they could get rich, that they could make money, that they could make a living, that they could make a business. There's nothing wrong with that. It is okay to make a living, and it's okay to have a business, but it is not okay for the government to sit back and be silent when there are hundreds of thousands of Ontarians who want their government to speak up, when there are hundreds of thousands of Ontarians who want to know how the system is going to work so they can be part of it, so they can develop an economy, so they can make a living out of it, and so they can be farmers and distributors. But none of this is known, because we're waiting for the federal government.

I'm sorry, but the federal government is not going to tell us what the age for people to have access is going to be. Because the age for alcohol varies from one province to the next, they're going to stay out of this. The federal government is not going to tell us what the distribution system is going to look like in our province, because this is our responsibility to take, but the Liberals are quite happy to sit and let this happen.

Then they say, "Oh, but we care about public health, and we care about people stopping smoking, and we're very proud of our Smoke-Free Ontario Act," when really, when they have an opportunity to be proactive, to show leadership, it is radio silence on this side. This is not acceptable, Speaker. This is not acceptable at all.

I want a clear communication plan. I want to know what the availability and accessibility of this new substance will be like. We talk a lot about the cannabis control board of Ontario, basically aligned with the liquor board of Ontario. Lots of people talk about that, except for government. What is the end goal going to be? Right now, if you look at alcohol or tobacco—because we're talking about the Smoke-Free Ontario Act—the main goal at the end of the day for the government is to cash in. If you look at the LCBO, it generates over a billion dollars in revenues for the government. If you look at the taxes on tobacco in Ontario, they also generate billions of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues for the government. Is this the path that we're going to take with this new drug, this drug that's going to be legalized?

Is this the path that we want, the path that is driven by commercialization? Maybe. But why is it that we don't know?

Why is it that when I ask the Ministry of Health, they tell us, "Oh, no, we're going to take a path of health first. We understand the effect that legalization will have on public health, and we're taking our responsibility seriously by doing nothing," by bringing the Smoke-Free Ontario Act back to this Legislature year after year to add four words. I want more than four words when the Smoke-Free Ontario Act comes in front of this House. I want this bill to make sure that we look forward, that we show leadership, that we know that there is a huge potential of increased smokers in Ontario and that we will show that we want to help people quit smoking and we don't want people to smoke more.

A lot of people are saying that there are other ways right now. Most of the people who use cannabis smoke it. But there are other ways to use those substances. One way is through edibles. Why don't we have a clear policy that says, "If you're going to smoke recreational cannabis, it's going to be more expensive than if you consume it in a way that doesn't promote smoking," to make it clear that this substance is going to be legal. If you want to use it, go right at it, but the edibles, the drinkables, the chewies, the vapour, all of the other forms of consuming cannabis will be cheaper for the same effect than if you smoke it. This is a way to clearly show to people that it is a legal product. You are allowed to use it. You use it within guidelines, which I hope will be coming out soon—but it's not soon enough. People want to know now. It is not like it's a brand new substance; it has been there forever, and hundreds of thousands of Ontarians use it. Why is it that it is radio silence on this side? Why is it that I have a bill in front of me that doesn't talk about this, as if it does not exist? I can't stand that, Speaker. I can't stand that.

I was not always a politician. I worked in health promotion for a long time. We know that changing people's behaviour requires a tonne of work, and to do that tonne of work, you need time. It's not after the bill from the federal government is presented and tabled and debated that will be the time to start doing education. Now is the time. But there is no work plan. There is no direction. There is nothing. We have a bill that changes four words. That's what we have.

0920

Canada is about to become the second country in the world to legalize non-medical cannabis. We are the biggest province in this country, and we are doing nothing: no strong regulatory framework in sight, nothing in this bill we are putting forward.

People will know that whether you talk about marijuana, hashish or hash oil, it all comes from the cannabis plant. The cannabis plant has more than 61 chemicals called cannabinoids, all within the plant. The main psychoactive ingredient is THC. If anybody is interested, THC is short for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol—THC is a lot easier. But it also contains what is called CBD. This is

the cannabidiol. This product does not have any psychoactive effect, but it does help with pain management and has been approved in a pill form to help people with MS.

The medical use of marijuana and cannabis will also have to be looked at, because right now, there are a lot of people who seem to qualify for a prescription for medical marijuana. I would tell you by experience that some of those people got prescriptions for medical marijuana in circumstances that are hard to justify from a health point of view. I can tell of an example of somebody who has gingivitis. That qualifies for a medical marijuana prescription. There is no best practice that shows that marijuana is effective, there is no link between this disease and treatment with marijuana, but you can go into this doctor's office and get a prescription.

I'm telling you that because medical marijuana is there and will continue to be there. As we roll out those new regulations for the legalization of cannabis throughout Ontario, all of those have to be taken into account: the fact that there is a pent-up demand, the fact that it does have an effect on the developing brain, the fact that it is not without harm.

You realize, Speaker, that when people smoke marijuana, although they may not smoke it as often as people smoke cigarettes, they will take a breath and they hold their breath so that they can maximize the effect of the THC. If there is tobacco in that joint—and most of the time there is—what does that mean? That means that the tobacco is also held in your lungs for longer. I hope that I don't have to explain to anybody that tobacco smoke has a harmful effect on human lungs. Tobacco is the only product that will kill half of its users if it's used as directed. Tobacco is the only product that kills half of its users.

So here you have a new form of smoking that will become more and more prevalent once recreational marijuana becomes legalized, where the way you smoke changes for the worse, if you look at lung health. I see that one of my colleagues who is very passionate about lung health is here.

What are we doing? Absolutely nothing. We're changing four words in a bill to say "and other prescribed substances." Those prescribed substances have to be defined in regulation. We've known this for two years, and yet the regulations are not ready. Meanwhile, a lot of good, hard-working people who are starting to open up smoking lounges, dispensaries and all of this are being dragged through the courts and have police coming down on them because we have this vacuum of direction coming from Queen's Park. This has to change.

The NDP is on record forever on end saying that we should decriminalize recreational marijuana. Nothing good comes from making criminals out of recreational marijuana users. Once a person goes through the courts and, God forbid, ends up in jail, you will bring hardship onto those people for the rest of their lives. The punishment far outweighs what we were ever trying to do. I will make a parenthesis on that. Although the NDP has always been for decriminalizing marijuana forever on end,

there will still be a criminal offence if you drive under the influence of cannabis and under the influence of marijuana.

How proactive are we on educating people on that? How ready are we, as a province, to deal with that? Not whatsoever, Speaker, not whatsoever. Yet it is quite clear that people who drive under the influence of marijuana have twice the chance of getting into an accident while driving. We know there will be an increased risk. We know we should be doing something about that, but we are doing nothing.

We have a bill in front of us that could lead the way for leadership, that could send a clear message to the people of Ontario that your government is on it, that we are ready, that we are prepared, that as soon as the federal government passes their law, we will be ready. We will have a health promotion approach to this. Our youth will know about it. We will know how the distribution will be done. We will know how the taxation will be done. We will have a clear plan that everybody understands, that everybody had a chance to participate in, but I'm dealing with a Liberal government who is going to wait until the train leaves the station.

I want to bring you back, Speaker. You remember when cellphones became the norm. Everybody has a cellphone—pretty much everyone. People started texting while they were driving—lots of accidents, lots of hardship, lots of really severe damage done to humans and vehicles. Years down the road, we passed a law that says texting and driving is illegal. It was too late. For human beings, once they get a habit, it is really, really hard to change this habit. So for all of us who, while they're driving or sitting at a red light, have a quick peek at their cellphone just to see if the little light went from green to red—once you start doing this, to get a human being to change this behaviour is really hard.

0930

The law that says you can't text and drive at the same time will be effective for the new generation because, right now, if you're a kid taking driver's ed, the first thing they do when you start—the first time at the wheel—is ask for your cellphone. They give you this nifty little pouch. They open up the trunk of the car and they put your cellphone in the trunk of the car. This is the first thing you learn before you go on and learn to drive. And that's great. The new generation of drivers won't be texting and driving because you taught them from the beginning. But for the rest of us who started to use their cellphones in the car before the law was there, very few will change.

I'm telling you this story because the link is the same. If you look at the use of recreational cannabis—if we don't get the regulations right before it becomes legal, it will be too late. You will not be able to go back. If you want to look at things like changing the age rather than having it line up with the age of alcohol, putting it at a different age; if you want to make some of the regulations as to where you can and cannot consume recreational marijuana—all of those have to be done ahead of

time, communicated ahead of time and bought in by the people of Ontario ahead of time.

Whenever I ask about what is coming, the only answer I get back is, "We're waiting for the federal government to act." In my mind and in the minds of everybody who cares about public health and in the minds of everybody who cares about making sure that people don't go on to be smokers, we're hearing that they're going to miss the boat. It's going to be too late for those hundreds of thousands of people who presently use recreational marijuana in an illegal way, who are biting at the bit to do this in a legal way. We have to talk to those people. The longer we have radio silence, the less of a chance we will have to put a healthy public policy forward.

Why is it that I have this bill in front of me and there is nothing in this bill that will do that? It disappoints me. I expect more than this. I was really proud when Ontario was the first Legislature to have a Minister of Health Promotion. It looked like we cared about health promotion. It looked like we finally understood that if we invest in health promotion and disease prevention, not only are people healthier and better, but you also have a pretty significant impact on the health care costs down the road because people stay healthier longer and use the health care system less, because we use the health care system when we're sick.

We don't have a Ministry of Health Promotion anymore. It has been amalgamated. Frankly, when we had a Ministry of Health Promotion, it was less than stellar. Here again, we have the same opportunity in front of us right now, and we're about to miss the boat.

There's a slew of research as to who uses cannabis for recreational purposes. It starts in about grade 7. We have stats for students in grade 7. Those are young people between the ages of 11 and 12. We know most of them smoke because right now, to get your hands on drinkable or edible or chewable or vaporizing is not easy, so most of them only have access to the smoking form. It's pretty high. Those are young people who, in theory, don't have access to tobacco, don't have access to alcohol, but they do have access.

We have this other mega problem of all of the illegal trade coming in. Do you really think that organized crime, which brings a huge part of our drugs into this province right now, is simply going to sit back and say, "Oh, it is legal now. We will go and make money someplace else"? No, absolutely not. This has to be taken into the equation, and it doesn't seem to be.

I wanted to talk a little bit about some of the proactive work that a legal framework for cannabis could look like. There are benefits to legalization. You can make sure that the product that will be sold is actually what you're buying. Right now, everybody buys their recreational marijuana on the black market. They don't really know what they're buying. I can guarantee you that there are no labels on it and there are no quality controls on it or anything of the sort.

The legalization will allow us to do this. It would be good for the government of Ontario to start to ask people:

What kind of labelling would you want? What kind of information would you want to see? Basically, What kind of regulatory models would you like?

The criminalization that we have right now—we can put a big X on that. That did not work. We could have government control or what we call a government monopoly, or we could have commercialization. Of course, we have prescriptions also. Why isn't the government forthcoming as to what exactly that will look like? You cannot have a public health approach to regulation in silos without talking to anybody. I know that there are really some good people within the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of the Attorney General. There are some good people who are working on this, but they're talking to themselves when they should be taking a public health approach and talking to all of us.

What will accessibility and availability look like? Where will it be sold? What kind of density of access are we talking about? Will we have any regulation in Ontario?

The federal government is not going to look at this. This is our responsibility. Put it out there so that people can tell you what they want and so that we strike the right balance that respects our goal to have a public health approach.

What will be the minimum age? Why aren't we having those conversations, Speaker? There is more and more data and evidence being built all over us that says that people want this. This should be in this bill. This should be part of the Smoke-Free Ontario Act because we know that most people consume marijuana in a smoking form. We know that when we add the four words to the bill "and other prescribed substances," what we really mean is the regulation of marijuana. But none of that is done.

Density of sales of outlets: How many of those will we have? What will the marketing and promotion of recreational marijuana look like? Why aren't we talking about this? Why aren't we, as legislators, setting out the regulations that will tell you what you will and will not be allowed to do?

There are a lot of people who have a lot of ideas about this. You can walk not far from Queen's Park and see that marijuana is being advertised on the front of many businesses right now. Is this what we want? Is this what we should move forward? Are we going to watch Hockey Night in Canada and see who is having a sale on recreational marijuana? Some people think it's a good idea; others, not so much.

When you put a public health approach lens to this, you realize that it is the government's responsibility to say what will and what won't be, because if you don't regulate, then people are allowed to expect and to bring forward business ventures where they will be able to take advantage of this new trade, of this new product, of this new commerce opportunity.

But if we do not want, when we watch Hockey Night in Canada, to have the latest flavour of marijuana advertised over and over and over, then the government has to

speak up. And how do we speak up? We speak up by making modifications to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, which is in front of us right now. And what are we doing? Nothing.

0940

How about pricing and taxation? We all know that, especially for young people, price is a huge decision-maker for them. We all know that taxation allows you to regulate the price. It's not going to be the federal government who tells us how much the province is going to tax this product, is it, Mr. Speaker? Why is it that we're waiting till the federal government has finished its work before we start ours?

Nobody is going to tell the provincial government how to tax recreational marijuana. The people in this House, the people in this chamber, are the ones who are going to decide. Hopefully, it will be done through a public health approach. Hopefully, it will be done through the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Why aren't we talking about that? Why do I have this bill with only four words? I want more.

We also have to have driving measures. How are we going to do this? Are we going to follow alcohol, where it's 0.05, and once you pass this, you have a penalty, and the penalty increases exponentially if a whole bunch of other factors come in? Are we going to follow this? Are we going to say zero tolerance right off the bat and not move from there? I can tell you that there are a lot of people who are pushing in that direction. But here again, we have an entire Liberal government that is happy with radio silence.

One of the areas that is near and dear to my heart is health promotion and education. The health promotion and education—

*Interjections.*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** It's pretty noisy over there. We're talking to me now. It's pretty noisy over there—a little respect for the speaker. Thank you.

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** Thank you, Speaker.

The last part that is very important to me is health promotion and education. We cannot wait to start educating young people. We cannot wait to start educating their parents. We cannot wait to start educating all Ontarians as to what this will look like, what the health effects are, and do it in a way that is not this patronizing, "Drugs are bad. Don't do it." We already know that doesn't work. There are evidence-based education campaigns and health promotion campaigns that exist that are effective and that make sure people use cannabis in a way that is respectful to their health and the health of everybody around.

There are also additional considerations. We talk an awful lot about climate change and we talk an awful lot about zero carbon, but right now I can tell you that most of the production of cannabis in Ontario is done indoors. The indoor production of cannabis has an incredible carbon footprint. We're talking through the roof here because they use intensive lighting and climate control. When it's minus 40 outside, it has to be warm in there. I can give you an example. One joint represents 1.5 kilograms of

carbon—for one joint. It's the equivalent of driving a hybrid car for 35 kilometres.

So how about right off the bat we ask that whoever will cultivate cannabis does it with carbon-free electricity generation, so that you're bringing in a brand new product and you make it carbon free, or you force them to have 100% offset of their electricity consumption with renewable energy. This would be leadership and this would be getting ready for the tsunami that is coming. But what are we hearing from the other side? I think you're starting to see, that it's radio silence.

Am I supposed to sit down now?

*Interjection.*

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I think I have three minutes left, and then that's it.

Je ne m'étais pas rendu compte que la matinée avait passé si rapidement. Je veux m'assurer que les autres aient l'opportunité de parler un peu de ce projet de loi.

On sait tous qu'il y a des centaines de milliers d'Ontariens et d'Ontariennes qui ont très hâte que la marijuana devienne légale et disponible en Ontario, et ça, c'est bien correct. Le parti néo-démocrate est en faveur de ça depuis longtemps. Cela étant dit, on sait également qu'il y a un risque pour la santé. Comment fait-on pour mitiger le risque sur la santé, pour s'assurer qu'on donne aux Ontariens et Ontariennes ce qu'ils veulent, mais en même temps, qu'on fait ça d'une façon qui s'assure que les risques sur la santé sont compris, surtout les risques sur la santé des jeunes?

L'utilisation du cannabis—oui, c'est absolument vrai que de fumer du cannabis est moins dommageable pour la santé que de fumer du tabac. On le sait tous. Mais ce n'est pas sans dangers, surtout pour les jeunes. On sait maintenant que la consommation du cannabis chez les jeunes qui grandissent a un effet sur le cerveau. Il y a un effet sur le développement du cerveau. Il y a un effet sur la santé mentale des jeunes également. On a besoin d'éduquer les jeunes et leurs parents pour leur laisser savoir ça.

On a également besoin de règlements pour entourer tout ça. Malheureusement, il n'y a rien de ça qui est prêt en ce moment. Le projet de loi qu'on a devant nous change quatre mots, et pour moi, c'est une opportunité perdue.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Questions and comments?

Seeing none, further debate? Second call for further debate.

Mr. Fraser has moved third reading of Bill 178, An Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I heard a no.

All those in favour, please say "aye."

All those against, say "nay."

I believe the nays have it.

Call in the members. This will be—

*Interjection.*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Deferred until after question period. Sorry, you don't have to call the members in. It will be deferred.

*Third reading vote deferred.*

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** Orders of the day? Minister of Transportation.

**Hon. Steven Del Duca:** No further business, Speaker.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Paul Miller):** No further business. This House stands recessed until 10:30 this morning.

*The House recessed from 0947 to 1030.*

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** I want to welcome Heena Kapoor and Caroline Kotler to Queen's Park for question period. Welcome, girls.

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** It is my pleasure to welcome Dr. Art McDonald to Queen's Park. It's nice to see you. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Hon. Kevin Daniel Flynn:** As most of you will know, I've got the best legislative assistant in the world, Brooke Auld. The best father in the world, apparently, is here today, according to Brooke: Bryan Auld is in the members' gallery.

**Mr. Percy Hatfield:** I have a friend, Julie Dale, in the audience today. She's the mother of page Emily Dale. She only lives in Toronto but she grew up in Windsor. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Hon. Reza Moridi:** It is my distinct pleasure to introduce distinguished guests from Queen's University and the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory: Dr. Arthur McDonald, Nobel laureate; Dr. Nigel Smith, director of the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory; Ms. Anne Martineau, executive assistant to Dr. McDonald; Mr. Michael Fraser, vice-principal, university relations, at Queen's University; Mrs. Yvonne Cooper, director of communications at Queen's University; Dr. Jacques Farine; Dr. Rushdy Ahmad; Dr. Hugh Evans; Dr. Christine Kraus; Dr. Henry Lee; Dr. Rizwan Haq; Dr. Robert Heaton; Dr. Pillalamarri Jagam; Dr. Peter Skensved; and Dr. Gordon McGregor.

I invite all of my colleagues in the Parliament to join Dr. McDonald in room 228 for a viewing of his Nobel medal after question period.

**Mr. Randy Hillier:** It is my pleasure to welcome many medical marijuana patients and their advocates to the House today. They are here, of course, to witness the vote on Bill 178.

**Hon. Charles Sousa:** I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank my legislative assistant, Liz McLellan, as this will be her last question period at Queen's Park.

She has served me, this assembly and the people of Ontario with distinction. I know my colleagues and the members on the other side of the House who have had dealings with her will agree.

Liz is leaving this Legislature to study, where, bringing her skills, work ethic and intelligence to bear, she will join another assembly: the bar. We have every expectation she will continue to serve the public good with

the charisma and character that we've all come to know and admire.

Thank you, Liz, and congratulations.

**Mr. Michael Harris:** I would like to welcome Metka and Tadej Dubrovnik from Slovenia. Welcome to Queen's Park and Ontario today.

**Ms. Eleanor McMahon:** I would like to welcome, on behalf of the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services and myself, from the OPP Association, Chris Hoffman, vice-president; Bruce Chapman, president of the Police Association of Ontario; Constable Hugh Smith from the Toronto Police Service; Jamie Stuckless, executive director of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition; and Stephen Reid, executive director, Police Association of Ontario. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** I'm delighted to introduce a special guest, my daughter Michelle Ballard, who is here from Ottawa together with her friend Emily Compton and friends Kate Newson and Ian Forrest. Welcome to Queen's Park.

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** I'm delighted to welcome Vince Borg and his son Julian in the west gallery. They should be in the east gallery. This is the president of the Liberal Party of Ontario, Speaker.

**Ms. Soo Wong:** I would like to welcome Abby Leung, who is a resident of my riding of Scarborough—Agincourt and also a student at U of T Scarborough campus. Welcome, Abby.

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** The page captain today is Jacob Rudolph. He has his mother, Jan Whitelaw, and his father, Mark Rudolph, who was a former page in 1968-69. His grandmother, Carole Whitelaw, is here; his aunt, Julie Whitelaw. The host family for young Jacob is Vince and Julian Borg. Isn't that interesting? I'd like to welcome them to the gallery and make a fearless prediction, Mr. Chairman: One day young Jacob is going to sit in this seat, and I look forward to helping him on his campaign.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** I too have a page captain here today, from Pickering—Scarborough East, so congratulations to him. I want to welcome his parents, Cindy and Malcolm Zung, who I'm sure are very, very proud. We'll see you at lunch.

**Hon. Michael Gravelle:** I'm very pleased to welcome our ministry's summer intern to the Legislature today, Daniel Scarpitti. Daniel, welcome.

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** I would like to acknowledge today my OLIP intern, Justyna Zegarmistrz. I would also like to say thank you and acknowledge all of the interns who have been assisting us in our work in the Legislature.

**Mr. Lou Rinaldi:** On behalf of my good friend MPP Jeff Leal, I'd like to welcome page Claire Williams's dad, Tim Williams. Welcome, Tim.

**Mr. Michael Harris:** I would also like to acknowledge Sydney Oakes, the OLIP intern in my office for the second half. I definitely appreciate all of the work that she has done in our office and on behalf of our caucus.

**Ms. Catherine Fife:** It's my pleasure to thank Julia Redmond, the best OLIP intern here at Queen's Park.

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** On behalf of my seatmate, MPP Yvan Baker from Etobicoke Centre, I welcome the father of page captain Daniel Smart-Reed, James Reed, to the public gallery today.

**Ms. Lisa M. Thompson:** I would also like to thank my Ontario legislative intern. Her name is Alison Brown, from Ottawa. John Fraser, the member from Ottawa South, and I had the pleasure of benefiting from her experience and her passion, and I just want to sincerely thank her.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** I just can't let this opportunity go by. As the former president of the Ontario Liberal Party, I want to welcome the current president of the Ontario Liberal Party, Vince Borg, to Queen's Park.

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** Not to be left out, I would want to thank my legislative intern, Eric Zinn, who served so ably and capably in my office this past legislative term.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** In the Speaker's gallery today, I would like to introduce a stellar young man who has been my student assistant for the past year. Today is his last day. He is going to law school, and I've put him on retainer already: Mr. Stevelle Steer. Thank you, Stevelle, for the work that you've done.

We also have with us in the Speaker's gallery a delegation from the Federal Council of Austria, the upper House of the Austrian Parliament. They're led here by council president Josef Saller and accompanied by His Excellency Arno Riedel, Austria's ambassador to Canada. Welcome, and thank you for joining us today.

ARTHUR McDONALD

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The government House leader on a point of order.

**Hon. Yasir Naqvi:** Speaker, I believe you will find that we have unanimous consent to recognize Nobel Laureate in Physics Dr. Arthur McDonald and his team, with a representative from each caucus speaking for up to five minutes.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The government House leader is seeking unanimous consent to speak for up to five minutes on a tribute. Do we agree? Agreed.

The Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities and Minister of Innovation and Research.

**Hon. Reza Moridi:** Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise in this House and speak on behalf of the Liberal caucus as we celebrate the incredible achievements of Dr. Arthur McDonald, professor emeritus at Queen's University.

As Canadians, our hearts swell with pride and we stand a little taller when one of our own receives well-deserved recognition. "That person is Canadian," we say to those around us or think to ourselves when we hear the good news.

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Dr. McDonald is one such Canadian who has made the entire province and our wonderful country of Canada

proud. Dr. McDonald and a team of incredible collaborators conducted their groundbreaking research in 2000 at the world-class Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, 2,000 metres below the surface in the city of Sudbury. I had the privilege of visiting the lab a few years ago, and I can confirm that it is indeed a spectacular research centre.

Through his discovery that the tiny particles known as neutrinos have mass, Dr. McDonald created new knowledge that has challenged what was long thought to be a fundamental truth in quantum physics. In doing so, he has joined the ranks of the titans of physics such as J.J. Thomson, Ernest Rutherford, Niels Bohr, James Chadwick, Enrico Fermi, Abdus Salam, and Wolfgang Pauli, who created the concept of the neutrino.

Dr. McDonald made the discovery that the Nobel committee themselves indicated “has changed the understanding of the innermost workings of matter,” the discovery of which could “prove crucial to our view of the universe.”

Albert Einstein once said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge since imagination embraces the entire world and all there ever will be to know and understand.”

Our willingness to imagine, to accept that we don’t know everything, and our tireless pursuit to obtain new knowledge is fundamental to every advancement and every major discovery that modern society has known. It is through groundbreaking work like Dr. McDonald’s that we have the opportunity to so clearly see the limitless possibilities of modern science.

We rightly focus our mind on Dr. McDonald earning the 2015 Nobel Prize in physics, the world’s premier award for major achievement in the field. But I also want to recognize that shortly after that, Dr. McDonald was honoured with his second major international award of the year, the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics.

At that time, his mother told a story about when Dr. McDonald was a very young man growing up in Cape Breton. Even as a two-year-old, Valerie McDonald said, “He would sit and stare at the ticking clock resting on the window ledge of his childhood home.” And even then, Mrs. McDonald said, she knew that his young and inquisitive mind was trying to figure out exactly how that clock worked. And with determination, collaboration and, yes, imagination, that mind has made a major contribution to global knowledge and inspired all of us in the process.

Dr. McDonald, on behalf of the Liberal caucus, I want to not only congratulate you but thank you. Thank you for reaffirming to the world that life-altering discoveries can and do take place in the province of Ontario, a province that prides itself on the talent and the skills of our people and on our strength in research and innovation. And thank you for showing our young people that knowledge can only be created by asking questions, by testing what is assumed to be true and by working closely with others in a truly collaborative way. Your work and the work of others like Dr. Takaaki Kajita, co-winner of the Nobel Prize for 2015 in physics, has made our under-

standing of the world richer. As a scientist, I know that you share these awards with the many others you have worked with over the years. To that end, I would like to thank all of you here joining Dr. McDonald in the gallery of this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker, my fellow parliamentarians: These faces, led by Dr. McDonald, are what innovation, imagination and knowledge creation are all about. So please join me once more in congratulating Dr. McDonald and his partners for their incredible contribution to physics, to human knowledge, to Ontario and to our wonderful country, Canada.

Thank you very much. Merci beaucoup. Meegwetch.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further tribute?

**Mr. Michael Harris:** Today I am honoured to have the opportunity to recognize the historic legacy of a prominent Canadian academic and visionary, a recipient of both the Order of Canada and the Nobel Prize in physics, Dr. Arthur B. McDonald.

Thank you, Dr. McDonald, for being here today with us. I would also like to welcome some of your guests: Michael Fraser, Dr. Nigel Smith, Yvonne Cooper and Anne Martineau. Welcome also to Queen’s Park.

Dr. McDonald’s accomplishments follow a lifetime of dedicated work in physics, leading to breakthrough discoveries that have helped us and will help future generations better understand our universe.

That dedicated work began in the classrooms and science labs of his native Sydney, Nova Scotia, where Dr. McDonald’s brilliance was evident early on. In fact, in the years after he left his mark at a North Sydney high school, students were wary of even taking a seat at his former desk due to the legacy it already held. If a student brave enough to take that seat answered a teacher’s question incorrectly, the teacher would often shake their head and say, “Do you realize ‘the’ Arthur McDonald used to sit at that desk?”

Dr. McDonald grew that legacy through his post-secondary years in Nova Scotia, obtaining both his bachelor’s and master of science from Dalhousie University in Halifax before attending the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California, to obtain a PhD in physics.

If Pasadena seems familiar to those who believe they have a grasp of science because they’ve caught themselves watching a marathon of Big Bang Theory a time or two, you should know that the connection is not that far-fetched. In fact, there’s a very real connection that traces back to roots from Dr. McDonald’s years as a professor at Princeton University. While he is now positioned as a professor emeritus and former university research chair at Queen’s University in Kingston, it was during his time at Princeton in the 1980s that he taught a young David Saltzberg, who went on to become the Big Bang Theory’s science consultant. Fast forward a couple of decades. When David heard about the Nobel Prize win, he invited Dr. McDonald to a taping of the show. Apparently, David occasionally gets to bring a real scientist, known as “geek of the week,” to the set to meet the producers, writers and actors of the show.

From geek of the week to Nobel Prize winner of the year in physics: both significant accomplishments to be sure, Speaker, but it's the latter and the breakthrough discovery it speaks to that is really the "big bang" that has literally changed scientific theory forever.

Dr. McDonald's big bang actually came from ongoing research at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, or SNO-LAB, looking at neutrinos that come from the sun. Dr. McDonald, the director of the observatory since 1989, discovered in 2001 that those neutrinos from the sun changed their identities and were not disappearing on their way to earth. Interestingly enough, this discovery led to the far-reaching conclusion that neutrinos must have mass, dispelling the long-held notion that they were massless. I know that's what I always thought, Speaker.

So it was Dr. McDonald's work in the underground science laboratory, located two kilometres below the earth's surface in the Vale Creighton Mine near Sudbury, that forever changed how we think about the solar star some millions of kilometres above the earth. As Dr. McDonald noted himself, "It's ironic that in order to observe the sun you have to go ... kilometres underground."

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In awarding Dr. McDonald and his co-winner, Dr. Kajita of the University of Tokyo, the Nobel Prize academy indicated, "The discovery has changed our understanding of the innermost workings of matter."

His discoveries have helped to inform and inspire. As Dr. McDonald's legacy grows, he speaks about his hope for more young people and women to get into science. The example he has set should help to inspire young and aspiring scientists to know that they can accomplish great things right here in their backyard. His legacy will inspire for generations to come, just as he has inspired this generation: his students, research associates and those who know him personally.

Dr. McDonald, on behalf of Patrick Brown and the PC caucus, we are so proud of your work here in Ontario that has transcended boundaries and shaped the way we understand our universe. We look towards the future with great pride, knowing that amazing things lie ahead for you and your dedicated team at SNOLAB, based on the discoveries you have already made.

I personally, as one dedicated Leafs fan to another, trust your foresight in moving forward. You are clearly a brilliant decision-maker. On behalf of the Ontario Legislature, thank you for the contributions you have made to this province and to the rest of Canada. We of course look forward to seeing what comes next.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Further tribute?

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I rise today on behalf of my leader, Andrea Horwath, and the entire NDP caucus to pay tribute to a great Canadian—a great mind—who has spent many, many years in my riding of Nickel Belt at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, better known as the SNOLAB, located in one of Vale's deepest mines, which happens to be very close to where I live.

Arthur Bruce McDonald, better known as Art McDonald, was born in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Since receiving his doctorate degree in physics, he has been using numerous techniques to study the fundamental laws of physics. As we've heard this morning, this has led him to study neutrinos.

Neutrinos are elemental particles in physics that have one of the smallest masses of known subatomic particles. They are created either by radioactive decay, by the sun, by nuclear reactors, supernova etc., but they are really hard to detect. In 1989, Dr. McDonald became the overall director of a project trying to detect neutrinos from the sun.

The neutrinos are extremely difficult to observe due in part to background radiation. What he decided to do was to study those tiny particles—and when I say tiny, Speaker, look at the top of my thumb. Right here, right now, there are a million neutrinos going through that little bit of space. They're tiny.

So Dr. McDonald built a detector. The detector is the size of a 10-storey building. It has detectors within it all over, and it is filled with millions of dollars' worth of heavy water. But he had to do this two kilometres under the ground in Creighton Mine, in an environment that is about a thousand times cleaner than the cleanest operating room in one of our hospitals—not an easy feat for him, for his team or, I would say, for a few cage operators and hoist men who had to bring all of this equipment down two kilometres to the site.

It took almost a decade to build it—that was in the 1990s—and then in the year 2000, the experiment started.

By the time of its opening, the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory was the lowest-radioactivity location that had been created on Earth. The SNOLAB continues to be a world-class facility and continues to focus on subatomic physics, largely neutrino and dark matter physics. It is a source of pride for all of us.

I had the opportunity to visit the SNOLAB and—get this, Speaker—I had my picture taken with a supernova detector and a dark matter camera. Let me tell you, at the time, the theme song for The Big Bang Theory was playing in the back of my mind. I thought I was pretty cool.

While the study was taking place, there were many postgraduate PhD students with Dr. McDonald, as well as his second-in-command, Dr. Doug Hallman, professor emeritus in physics at Laurentian University. All those smart people would gather at Eddie's. Eddie's is a sports bar that had this online trivia. So all of those great minds would go online and play this science trivia with the world. You will be happy to know that they were the champions every single time. We now have a plaque in Eddie's Sports Bar that shows that they are the winners, and I'm happy to report that scientists from 63 different countries speaking 40 different languages have come to Eddie's Sports Bar to see the feat that was done by those good people.

Dr. McDonald is also a very humble man. After winning his physics Nobel Prize, he came back to Sudbury

and went to Science North, our science centre in Sudbury. At the time, there was a group of high school students visiting. He gave them, I would say, a one-hour lecture as to what neutrinos are, and what changing-flavour neutrinos are all about. All of those kids understood, because he has a way to make things clear and understandable, even for people like me.

He was also wearing his Nobel Prize medal at the time. I'm putting it out there that he agrees to take selfies—just so that people know. This is a pretty incredible medal. If you ever see one of those, it will impress you. I can guarantee it.

Science North has also created an amazing exhibit that focuses on the work he has done and what it's all about. The exhibit will open at Canada House in London, England, on Canada Day at the end of this month, and then it will come back to Canada and tour all the museums and universities so that, young and old, we can all learn about the incredible accomplishment of this man, his work and the work of the SNOLAB.

I will leave you with an anecdote from Art. After waking up one morning, he asked his wife, "Did I really win the Nobel Prize for physics?" Yes, Dr. McDonald, you did. You are our hero and you will always be welcomed back to Nickel Belt. Thank you.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I want to thank all of the members for their thoughtful and inspiring words on behalf of this Legislature to Dr. McDonald.

My own two cents' worth: I'd just like to say thank you for being here and thank you for arranging this with the House. I want to say to our children who are in the gallery that you too can be a Nobel winner. There is nothing stopping you from doing what Dr. McDonald did. Thank you all for the inspiration.

I want to thank the doctor for allowing me to understand that I just got a grasp of what H<sub>2</sub>O means, and now you've conflicted me. I don't know what I'm going to do.

It is now time for question period.

## ORAL QUESTIONS

### ENERGY POLICIES

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** My question is for the Premier. Despite the vague wording in the climate change action plan and despite all the government's denials, we know the truth. The government has a hidden agenda to ban natural—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Stop the clock. My expectation won't change. Thank you.

Leader?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Adrian Morrow of the Globe and Mail received leaked cabinet documents that prove the government's hidden agenda to ban natural gas. The documents say that the government is still pursuing a harder line on natural gas heating behind the scenes. The

minutes direct the energy minister to find a way to phase out reliance on natural gas.

The Liberals say one thing and they're privately doing something very different. The Premier is standing up in this House and saying she's not phasing out natural gas, and behind closed doors, in cabinet, she's telling her minister to get it done.

**Mr. Speaker,** will the Premier come clean on her cabinet documents and their intention to phase out natural gas?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Once again, let me say to the member opposite that our plan is in full public view. We are tackling climate change because we know that it is the greatest threat faced by humanity. If we don't, as humankind, tackle climate change and find a way across the globe to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, then we will not be fulfilling our responsibility to the young people who are sitting in the gallery today and to all of the children and grandchildren who will come after us.

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It is incredibly important that we all do our part. That's what we are doing in Ontario. We're going to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with or without the opposition working with us.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Back to the Premier: Yes, the climate change action plan is in plain view. It's in the Globe and Mail, in the article exposed by Adrian Morrow highlighting your cabinet documents. But let's move on from the hidden agenda on natural gas.

We already know about cap-and-trade and what the cost will be for Ontario. We know this reckless plan means that we will see businesses send—hear this—\$300 million to California by 2020 and \$3 billion to California by 2030. It is taking money out of the pockets of people in Oakville and sending it to Orange county. The hard-earned money of the people of Mississauga will be going to Malibu. Businesses in Scarborough will be subsidizing businesses in San Diego.

Why does the Premier insist on this reckless and ideological plan that benefits the people of Beverly Hills and doesn't benefit the people of Ontario?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** The Leader of the Opposition could not be more wrong. The fact is, we are joining a market. You know, in the old days, the Conservatives actually believed in markets. They actually believed that market philosophy worked, and worked to the benefit of society.

We are joining a market with Quebec and with California. The revenue, the money that comes in from that market through the cap-and-trade system, is going to be reinvested in individuals and families in this province, in businesses to drive innovation, to help people retrofit their homes, to help people buy emissions-free automobiles—

**Mr. John Yakubuski:** Do you think if you shout louder, people will actually believe you, Premier?

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I'd like to remind the member from Renfrew that that's not a bad point. There's a reason for that, and you're part of it.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Those dollars are going to be reinvested to reduce pollution, to invest in transit, to do the work that needs to be done to reduce our emissions so that we can join the rest of the world in fighting climate change.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Again to the Premier: The Premier may aspire to be the minister of economic development for California, but that's not in the best interest of Ontario. In BC, in their carbon pricing model, every cent stays in British Columbia.

I'm going to repeat my question: How can the Premier adopt and sign on in a legal manner to a scheme that is going to send \$300 million to California by 2020 and \$3 billion to California by 2030? In what world do you think it's appropriate to be taking precious resources from Ontario and subsidizing economic development in California?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** We live in this world, where the science has demonstrated clearly that if we do not tackle climate change right now—in fact, we should have been changing our practices 30 years ago, but we didn't, as a race, and now we have to do that. We're actually playing catch-up as the human race.

The member opposite references other jurisdictions—other jurisdictions where greenhouse gas emissions are not going down—and in fact is putting forward a scheme that would not work, that would cost people more in Ontario and would not reduce pollution. That's not a plan to tackle climate change. Ours is. We are going to re-invest the money from cap-and-trade into the people of this province, into the businesses of this province to help them to join the battle and reduce pollution.

#### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** My question is for the Premier. Since I can't get an answer on why the government wants to send \$3 billion to California, let's talk about health care.

I met with some very concerned doctors last week in Simcoe county. We talked about the 800,000 people in Ontario who don't have a family doctor. I learned that since the Liberals have come to power, non-urgent visits to our local emergency room have increased by 30%. Wait times in the ER have steadily increased because this government is failing to offer real solutions and alternative care options. When doctors try to offer to find a solution, to find an alternative, this government responds by slashing \$815 million in physician services for patient care.

Mr. Speaker, it is never too late to do the right thing. Will the Premier commit to stopping these cuts to physician services for patient care?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Let's just look at the facts: Since 2003, the number of physicians in Ontario has increased by over 5,600; 94% of Ontarians have access to a family doctor, a family health care provider.

The fact is that the investments we have made and the investments that we continue to make are improving service to families, to people across the province. That's why there's \$1 billion in this year's budget—a billion new dollars—to invest in the health care system.

We will continue to make those investments, including \$345 million to hospitals, because we know that there is an increasing need for health care across the province. That is an investment that is critical to us. It's critical to society. We will continue to make those investments and increase funding year over year to the health care system.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** Back to the Premier: One of the doctors that I met and spoke to was Dr. Monica Wolnik. She runs the urgent care clinic in Barrie. They see 150 to 200 patients a day. The clinic saves the health care system \$12 million a year by keeping patients out of the emergency room and the hospital. The thank you they get from this government is cut after cut after cut.

Dr. Wolnik estimates that the government's funding cuts mean \$5,000 less a month. That isn't sustainable for the long-term future of the clinic. She worries that they're going to have to shut down the clinic, sending all those people, at a more costly rate, to emerg in the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, this wouldn't be the first clinic to close in Ontario because of the government's cuts. So my question is, are you prepared to continue with these cuts if it means all these clinics across Ontario are going to close?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** We value the work that all our front-line health care professionals do, including the 30,000-plus doctors across this province.

I was recently in Barrie with the local member from Barrie—

**Interjections:** She's over there.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** Yes, over there; thank you.

We were at the Royal Victoria hospital, a new hospital, by the way, greatly and largely expanded. But we were there for one specific reason. We were there with many of those physicians who practise in Barrie at the hospital, as well. We were there to announce the expansion of their cardiac program, a multi-million dollar capital and operating expansion which will deliver a service that, quite frankly, is overdue for that growing part of the province. It will allow people to get that urgent, responsive care when they have a cardiac event, and they're going to be able to get it close to home.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Mr. Patrick Brown:** I'm not sure how that related to the question—rehashing and recycling old health care announcements, rather than answering the question about an urgent care clinic that is about to close.

I'll be more specific. These doctors are operating these clinics solely on physician fees, the same fees the government is slashing. This particular clinic has four doctors working 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. They see 150 to 200 patients a day and nearly 40,000 to 50,000 people a year. Their

per-patient cost, before fees, is between \$16 and \$17. The same base cost to the hospital is \$165, and you want to force them to close. You want to send those 40,000 patients back to the hospital at a higher cost. They're saving the system \$12 million and you're going to ruin that.

As Dr. Wolnik said, "There are similar clinics all over the province" struggling to stay afloat. It's time the Premier listened. Can I get a commitment, Mr. Speaker, that they'll keep these clinics afloat and they'll stop the cuts?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** If they're seeing 150 patients plus a day, I think they're probably managing okay in keeping that clinic afloat. The reality is that we are making sure that Ontarians have continuity of care. They have a comprehensive approach to health care through a primary care provider that's there, that they can rely on—

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**Mr. Jim McDonnell:** They're in the hallways in the hospitals.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Member from Stormont.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:**—that they can get access to, whether that's same day or next day. Over three million Ontarians have access to our family health teams where they have that holistic wraparound care that's provided not just by a family doctor, but often by a nurse practitioner or a dietitian or an occupational therapist—a whole suite of providers of care that ensure that they're able to maintain that highest quality. We've done that in the context of increasing the physician services budget every single year, last year by 1.25%, about \$150 million. We're doing that this year. More than a \$100 million more—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

## MERCURY POISONING

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My question is for the Premier. It's simply unacceptable that in 2016, there are people in Ontario who cannot get access to clean water. For more than 50 years, the people of Grassy Narrows First Nation have been dealing with mercury poisoning—50 years.

Last week, some of the young people suffering from the devastating effects of mercury poisoning came here to Queen's Park to fight for their community. Yesterday, the government agreed to more meetings. People in Grassy Narrows don't need another meeting. They need clean water. When will the Premier begin to clean up the mercury from the Wabigoon River in Grassy Narrows?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Well, let me just clarify for the leader of the third party that in all of those years, we have been working as a government with Health Canada. We have been working with the community. There has been ongoing monitoring of the mercury in the

water in Grassy Narrows, but also in the fish in the food supply.

We are very aware that this is a challenging problem. We are very aware that this is something that needs to be dealt with, but there has not been science that has indicated how we can clearly deal with the mercury that is in the sediment in the lake and in the river without disturbing it. We didn't commit to more meetings. We committed to bringing scientists up to Grassy Narrows to act on the recommendations of the report and to see if we can find a way through field studies to take further action, building on the action that has already been taken.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Yesterday, the Minister of the Environment claimed that there is "ongoing monitoring that the scientists in the Ministry of the Environment have been doing both on fish and water." But the scientist report says, "We have no recent measurements of mercury concentrations or water quality in the water of the Wabigoon River or in any of its lakes." So either the ministry is keeping its reports under wraps or they're not actually testing the level of mercury in the water. Is the government monitoring the levels of mercury in the water or not?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** My understanding is that the provincial government and the federal government, over many years, have been working on this and have been monitoring the mercury. I'll let the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change speak to the specifics of that. When I visited Grassy Narrows, when I was the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and I met with the folks in the community, there was information that was available in terms of the level of mercury in the fish and in the water.

The reality is that even if you look at the report that has recently come out, there is not a specific or easy solution to this. Now, the leader of the third party can do her utmost to oversimplify it, to make it a political issue and to try to use it to wedge between the people of the community and the government. We are going to continue to work with the community to find a solution that won't make the problem worse, but will actually fix the problem.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Well, when I visited Grassy Narrows, the chief and leadership there told me that they want their water cleaned up. That's what they told me. Based on the best information, scientists warn that there could actually be new sources of mercury contamination currently happening in the Wabigoon River.

The Liberals have been in government for over a decade in this province—in fact, for over a dozen years. And for over a dozen years, more people have gotten sick from mercury poisoning, and the situation may actually be getting worse.

Earlier this year, the Premier said that governments should be ashamed—"ashamed" is her word—if people in First Nations can't get clean drinking water. The Lib-

erals have had more than a dozen years to do something and they haven't. That is shameful.

When will the people of Grassy Narrows First Nation and First Nation peoples across this province have access to water that is safe to drink and fish that is safe to eat?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of the Environment and Climate Change.

**Hon. Glen R. Murray:** I think we need to break this down a bit. Mercury is multiply sourced, including atmospherically, widely across Ontario. As many of the members opposite will know, in many parts of Ontario you cannot eat walleye because of the mercury levels. Mercury today comes from methyl hydrate—atmospheric. When you flood a field for a dam, you get methyl hydrate, which is metabolized by fish into mercury.

Those leaks could be from any of those sources, so we have agreed to an advanced field study. It will cost about \$600,000 to figure it out. The Leader of the Opposition seems to think you can take a Hoover and just clean this up. It's a little more complicated than that.

### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** My question is for the Premier as well, but I have to say that I have never been so disgusted by a response. Why hasn't that monitoring been happening over the last 13 years? There are industrial sources of mercury as well, and that's the problem in the Wabigoon River.

All across Ontario, nurses are being fired and people are being treated in hospital hallways. Critical care beds and mental health beds are all overcrowded, and our hospitals need more than \$3 billion just in critical maintenance. That's a health care system in crisis.

My question to the Premier is: When will she stop denying the facts and start making sure that hospitals have the funding that they need to properly care for the patients of this province?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** As I have said, we are committed to a health care system that puts patients first and that can change in the ways that we know patients need and we know people want. That's why, in our budget, we have put in an additional \$270 million for home and community care.

When I talk about the health care system in transition, that's the kind of change that needs to happen because people are looking for care not just in hospitals but outside of hospitals, in the community, as well. That's why there's \$75 million in community-based hospice and palliative care. Those are changes that people are looking for.

We continue to invest in the more traditional services: \$345 million more for hospitals because we recognized that that was necessary, and \$85 million for community

health centres. The money for health care continues to go up because the need continues to increase.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Speaker, it's the government's own records that show that acute care everywhere, from SickKids Hospital in Toronto to London Health Sciences, from Sault Ste. Marie to Thunder Bay, is dangerously overcrowded. While the Premier talks about the importance of mental health, mental health beds across Ontario are consistently overcrowded.

Government records show that our hospitals are falling into disrepair and need more than \$3 billion just for urgent repairs. Hospital base funding has been frozen for four straight years and, this year, saw an increase of less than inflation and population growth.

This is a system in crisis. The Premier needs to stop denying the facts and make sure that when people go to hospital, they can get the care that they need. So my question is: Why doesn't she recognize that?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** As I said, we continue to put money into health care in the areas where we know that there is increased need, including \$12 billion over the next 10 years to expand and rebuild hospitals. There are 35 major hospital projects that are under way or being planned right now. We continue to increase the number of nurses and doctors, and we continue to work with the system, with the hospitals and with the community care facilities to go through the transition that is necessary to meet the demands and to meet the needs of people in communities.

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That means families who need support for their loved ones at home; that means families who are looking for palliative or hospice care. We're responding to those needs and, at the same time, increasing funding to hospitals and increasing the number of practitioners because we know that that's necessary for the system to be sustainable.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Final supplementary.

**Ms. Andrea Horwath:** Hospitals need an appropriate level of operational funding, and for years they have not been getting that level of funding from this government.

Look, I believe in health care. I believe in universal access to health care. As a New Democrat, that's part of my DNA. It shouldn't matter where you live; it shouldn't matter how much money you make; it shouldn't matter where you come from. All Ontarians deserve access to the health care that they need.

But that's not what is happening under this Liberal government. Beds are being closed, nurses and other front-line health care workers are being laid off. Hospitals are overcrowded and they are crumbling. That is a system in crisis. That is the legacy of this Liberal government after so many years in office.

When will this Premier stop ignoring this crisis and start fixing our health care system—the health care system that Ontarians treasure and rely on?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** I'm fully prepared to say and to admit that more work needs to be done. This is a process that is never-ending, to make sure that we continue to provide the highest-quality health care.

But if I'm prepared to do that, I wish the leader of the third party would be prepared to admit that she's incorrect when she states, repeatedly, that 1,400 nurses in hospitals lost their jobs last year, because that's simply not true. The figure from the College of Nurses of Ontario is 3,000 net new jobs being added last year alone. I said it yesterday—

*Interjection.*

**Hon. Eric Hoskins:** Yes, I'm going to quote the Fraser Institute—I love quoting them—because, in their 2015 report, *Waiting Your Turn*, they revealed that Ontario has the second-shortest overall wait times in Canada. They also said we have the second-highest value-for-money ranking. They also say that we provide the quickest access to services in the country.

There are many, many independent examples—the leader of the third party doesn't need to listen to me. There are so many independent reports that demonstrate unequivocally that we rank at the top or among the best in all of this country and, in many cases—as I said yesterday, from the Conference Board of Canada, last year, we were evaluated as the seventh-best in the entire world, ahead of Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States.

#### PAN AM GAMES

**Mr. Steve Clark:** My question is for the Premier. This government's shameful history of using the shredder and the delete key to destroy public documents is well known. Two former Liberal staffers face criminal charges related to wiping data connected to the gas plant scandal. Last month, we learned that the OPP are investigating the destruction of key documents related to a cancelled electricity contract. Each time the police come calling, the Premier claims she's changed her ways. Yet when the Auditor General asked to examine hard drives at TO2015, they had vanished.

Will the Premier finally show us that she believes in open and transparent government by joining me in asking the Information and Privacy Commissioner to investigate what happened at TO2015?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Thank you.

Premier?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** The Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** I want to start by saying thank you to the member opposite for the question. I also want to say that I appreciate the Auditor General's time and effort that was dedicated to this report.

On the very first page of the report, the Auditor General states, "Ontarians can take pride in the fact that the 2015 games went off without a major hitch, left a legacy of infrastructure for athletes and the general public to

use, and led Canada to its biggest-ever haul of medals from a Pan Am/Parapan Am Games."

In her press statement yesterday, the AG stated that value, as described here in the report, was obtained. The AG continues to say that these games were "praised for their smooth operations by the Pan American Sports Organization and the Americas Paralympic Committee."

We successfully delivered the largest, most transparent Pan Am/Parapan Am Games ever, and we did it under budget.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Steve Clark:** Another weak answer from the minister.

Back to the Premier: Here's what we know. The Pan Am's \$342-million cost overruns again prove this government is incapable of managing public funds. Paying millions in bonuses despite missing budget targets shows that Liberals will always reward their friends. Destroying hard drives before the Auditor General sees what's on them is evidence again of their outright contempt for transparency: can't manage, not in it for you, can't be trusted.

Saad Rafi, the man who went \$342 million over budget and destroyed evidence, is now in charge of Ontario's retirement security. I won't get an answer from this government on Pan Am budget or destruction of public documents, so I ask you, Premier: Will you fire Saad Rafi before more documents are deleted and the ORPP becomes this province's next scandal?

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Start the clock.

Minister?

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** Again I want to thank the member opposite for the question. These were the most transparent games ever. We held five technical briefings. TO2015 has assured us that they followed all record retention requirements by Archives Ontario. The Auditor General confirmed that by saying that TO2015 followed the procedures that were provided by the archives. In fact, yesterday the Auditor General reassured us that she doesn't have any indication that there was anything improper done. The Auditor General was granted full access to the shared computers that were—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Leeds—Grenville is warned.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I don't need that either.

You have a sentence wrap-up, please.

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** The Auditor General was granted full access to the shared computer system where all the information files, including emails, were uploaded and stored.

#### PAN AM GAMES

**Mr. Paul Miller:** To the Premier: If the overspending on the Pan Am Games wasn't bad enough, the Auditor

General requested 12 hard drives from TO2015 but only three were turned over. The rest were wiped and disposed of, including the CEO's. She could not obtain all the documents she requested, but yesterday the minister said that all the information on these drives had been saved to a server. So why did it remain inaccessible to the auditor and her staff?

The Liberal government does not get the benefit of the doubt on the wiping of hard drives. After the gas plant scandal, after the damning report by the Information and Privacy Commissioner, after an OPP criminal investigation for wiping information, our Premier said that the Liberals had learned their lesson. Apparently, they're back at their old bad habits.

To the Premier: Which is it? Were these government records destroyed, or did the Pan Am staff save the documents but obstruct the Auditor General's access to them?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** I'd like to thank the member for the question. I'm just going to restate what the Auditor General said yesterday. She doesn't have any indication that there was anything improperly done in this process. The Auditor General was granted full access to the system. The Auditor General was provided with 300 boxes of hard-copy information. The information that TO2015—it has been uploaded to the cloud, which the Auditor General has full access to.

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You know, the funny thing about this is, if we had 1,000 computers sitting in a room today, a year later we'd be criticized for not managing that properly either.

The information the computers released was uploaded to the cloud, and the Auditor General—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** If, if, if. Just tell us what happened to the hard drives.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Renfrew, come to order.

New question. The member from Cambridge—

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Whoa, whoa. Supplementary.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** My apologies. The member for a supplementary.

**Mr. Paul Miller:** Thank you, Speaker.

I guess that cloud has got a little grey area in it.

Some of the missing documents concerned executive bonuses—53 Pan Am executives shared several million dollars in special completion bonuses worth up to twice their annual salary. Some 25% of these bonuses were dependent on TO2015 meeting its operating budget, but in September 2014, the province had to bail it out by \$74 million because it was unable to stay within its operating budget.

The TO2015 board chairman, former Liberal Premier David Peterson, knew that, and failed to meet his budget restraints. The board then changed the targets and rules around bonuses so that the executives would still receive them in full. The government could have put a clause in the bailout that would have stopped this, but did nothing.

Speaker, this is a scandal—another one. How can the Premier possibly excuse the negligence with this public money?

**Hon. Michael Coteau:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday the auditor referenced additional investments that were made to the games since the budget bid back in 2009. We have always been open and transparent about these additional investments we made, through our technical briefings.

The Auditor General mentioned the security budget went up since 2009. We told you that in the technical briefings; we told both opposition members. The Auditor General mentioned \$74 million that was allocated to TO2015, which is a decision I made that was mentioned through the technical briefings. These are not new numbers. We said the games would cost \$2.4 billion in 2009 in the bid book, and we came in under that budget of \$2.4 billion.

The members opposite know fully that these games were the most transparent games. They went through five technical briefings. Any changes to the budget since 2009 were brought forward to our technical briefings.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Order.

Again, I apologize to the member from Hamilton East–Stoney Creek for missing him.

New question.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** My question is for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, whose ministry, along with many others, plays a key role in our fight against climate change.

With the release of the province's climate change action plan, we have described how Ontario will accelerate the adoption of low-carbon technology over the next five years by providing more choices to families and businesses on ways to become energy efficient and lower energy bills. Through the plan, Ontario will invest in projects that will reduce greenhouse gas pollution, create good jobs in clean tech and construction, generate opportunities and investment in Ontario, and help people and businesses transition to a low-carbon economy.

The building sector represents an opportunity for us to make important changes to the energy efficiency of our homes. Will the minister please tell this House why we must target buildings in our fight against climate change?

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** Mr. Speaker, it's conceivable that this may be the last question I ever get to answer in this place, so before I answer that question, I have something important to say.

Over the years, question period has served, I believe, as an effective camouflage of the native civility and decency of this place. If you want any evidence of civility and decency in this place, you need only to look at my critic from Windsor–Tecumseh and the honourable member from Oxford.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** Speaker, for one final time, I know that our colleagues thank the minister for his answer and also for the tremendous leadership that he has shown as Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. With his work with AMO and all of the other ministries that he has led so capably, thank you once again from all of us, Minister.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Minister?

**Hon. Ted McMeekin:** Well, Speaker, it's been a slice, I've got to tell you. It's been great. I want to thank the Premier for her confidence and all of the members of the House for their caring and their daring and their sharing together. I respect each and every one of you.

Now, on the question: Greenhouse gas for business is about 19% and it's rising fast. We need to do something about it. We have a wonderful plan and we're going to equip Ontarians with more of the tools they need to combat it, including some incentives to solve this problem. We all need to do that together.

#### ACCESS TO JUSTICE

**Mr. Randy Hillier:** My question is to the Attorney General. The Ottawa Citizen has reported that Ontario has "freakishly high" rates of stayed and withdrawn criminal cases. In fact, over 90,000 criminal cases last year were thrown out—a whopping 44% of all cases—before trial.

The minister talks about access to justice, but in fact, her actions are hindering and making a mockery of justice. We know it takes an average of 125 days and upwards of 10 court appearances before these charges are finally stayed or withdrawn. Their liberty is denied. Their freedoms are extinguished.

Speaker, can the minister explain why the crown is dropping close to 50% of all criminal cases after Ontario residents have already spent upwards of 125 days behind bars?

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** In Ontario, we have and we want a fair, effective and efficient bail and remand system. It's a key priority for our government. We recognize that there are issues, and that's why we're working with the ministry of community safety and corrections; we're working with the judicial; we're working with the crown. We have everybody at the table to review the situation and to improve the situation, because the last thing we want is people being in jail who should not be there. We know that we have capacity challenges and we want to resolve that.

That's why everybody is at the table. We have already provided and started some pilot projects and we will—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

Supplementary?

**Mr. Randy Hillier:** Again, to the Attorney General: Let's just be clear. Nearly half of all criminal cases are stayed or withdrawn before trial—half. It's a clear sign that things are broken. This overloads our already taxed courtrooms. It leads to and amplifies overcrowding in our detention centres. It adds cost and anguish to those

charged, and it is an abuse of process, which erodes the public's confidence.

There is an appalling lack of coordination between the Attorney General, our courts and this government. They are wasting needed resources and depriving people of their civil liberties. I want to know: Who is at fault? Is it the Attorney General? Is it the ministry of community safety and corrections? Or is it both of them, and who's going to fix it?

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** I will say that it's all of us who are going to work together to fix it, and the work has already begun. Like I said, we have pilot projects.

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We also have to work with the judiciary, and on this side of the House, we don't tell the judiciary what to do. We work together. That's why at my justice round table, all of these people are at the table and we're working very hard. We have different groups working together.

We have different pilot projects. For instance, in Ottawa, we have now a crown advising the police and—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Order.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** If you speak through the Chair, you'll know when I'm standing.

I would ask the member from Kitchener–Waterloo to come to order and the member from Lanark to come to order—

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** —and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

Wrap up, please.

**Hon. Madeleine Meilleur:** In Ottawa, we have two pilot projects. One of them is that the crown is working with the police to make sure that only cases that should go to jail go to jail, and only cases that go to trial go to trial. It's been successful, as well—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.

#### AUTISM TREATMENT

**Miss Monique Taylor:** My question is to the Premier. Opposition members have risen day after day, begging the Premier not to leave children with autism behind. Experts didn't recommend an age cap for therapy. They didn't say that children on the wait-list should be just kicked off.

Liberal MPPs know they're wrong. They have been avoiding speaking to parents by calling the police. They have manufactured reasons to avoid them, such as telling parents who have called the Human Rights Tribunal—even though they haven't opened a case—that they can't meet them to discuss government policy. It's disrespectful, Speaker, and they should apologize.

It's time to do the right thing, Premier. Will the Premier admit that she's hurting families and children with autism by imposing an age cap on autism therapy?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Children and Youth Services.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** I want to thank the member for the question. She knows what our plan is, Speaker. Our plan is to invest \$333 million new dollars to reduce those wait-lists in half by two years, and adding 16,000 new spaces, and to make sure that children with autism have individually tailored therapy to support the unique needs of every child.

Right now, our commitment—my support—is making sure every family is getting the information they need, that we are looking at every family on a case-by-case basis. I'm very pleased to highlight that for those children who are coming off the IBI wait lists, there have been 545 family meetings and we've had 995 families participate in the Autism Ontario website. And we've quadrupled the amount of support for summer camps this year for children with autism.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Miss Monique Taylor:** I'm going to go back to the Premier, but first I need to let this minister know that these meetings are happening in tears. They're happening by being forced into signing documents that they don't want to sign. This is awful—awful, Speaker.

The House is about to rise for the summer. The government keeps saying that something is coming soon, but parents and families are devastated and deeply confused by the mixed signals and the lack of information. Implementation of this rush job PR announcement has gone off the rails and it's putting children with autism at risk.

Again, autism doesn't end at five, and neither should IBI. Please, Premier, do the right thing. Do something for these families. Make sure that vulnerable children are a priority. Will the Premier immediately remove the age cap imposed on children needing IBI therapy?

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** This member is just wrong that families are being forced to sign contracts. I know that's not true because I've checked it out—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Hamilton Mountain will come to order.

Minister.

**Hon. Tracy MacCharles:** I know for a fact that of the 317 families who have signed contracts for direct services of \$8,000, many of them have taken that away, are thinking about it, looking at their options, and they can come back. Many of them have had multiple meetings. Of the 545 families who have had meetings, many of them have returned for secondary meetings.

The member knows that we are looking at the new program and potential enhancements to that, but we have to remember that the new program will have one point of entry—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you.  
New question.

## MINING SAFETY

**Mr. Glenn Thibeault:** My question is for the Minister of Labour. On this day, June 8, in 2011, two miners were tragically killed while on the job in Sudbury. Jason Chen-

ier and Jordan Fram were killed in a horrible incident and were buried in a run of muck. My heart goes out to Jason's and Jordan's families and their colleagues.

This tragedy was felt by all of those in my riding, across the province and right across the country. It is essential that we continue to make Ontario's mines the safest they can be and to prevent incidents like this from ever happening again.

Can the minister please update the House on what our government is doing to protect people who work in mines in places like my riding of Sudbury and across the province from workplace incidents?

**Hon. Kevin Daniel Flynn:** Thank you to the member from Sudbury for his question and for all of the excellent work that he's done in this regard over the years.

It was five years ago, but our hearts still go out to the families of Jason and Jordan and the colleagues who still carry the pain of losing these two young men in the prime of their lives to such a terrible workplace incident. I'm pleased to inform the House that as a result of the investigation that we did and the work that a number of people did, we're bringing in amendments that are making mines safer. You're seeing increased water management and ground control—something the families specifically asked for—risk assessments, formal traffic management programs, guarding, emergency stopping devices and pull cords.

It's in the memory of these two young men and the many other miners who were either killed or injured over the years that we have taken very strong steps to improve mining safety so that no one has to relive this catastrophe again and Ontario has the safest mines in the world.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Glenn Thibeault:** I'd like to thank the minister for his answer.

I know that our government continues to work with my community and communities across the north to ensure that our mines are safe and that those who work there return home safe. It is encouraging to hear that we are taking even stronger steps to improve mining safety so that no one is killed on the job. Everyone who leaves their home to go to work deserves to come home at the end of their shift.

I know that the Ontario competition is under way in Sudbury right now, and that we're also holding the world mining rescue competition in August of this year, something that my community is extremely proud of. I then look to the Minister of Labour: Can he please explain and expand on some of the changes mentioned in his previous answer?

**Hon. Kevin Daniel Flynn:** Again, thanks to the member from Sudbury for his continued involvement and his interest in this area.

As he mentioned to the House, the Ontario Mine Rescue Competition is currently under way in the city of Sudbury. Our chief prevention officer is up there as we speak.

For the changes, some of the changes we made are quite simple. For example, one of the top priority recom-

mendations that came from the mining review was simply that we wear high visibility apparel so that people could see you in a mine. Sometimes, it's things that are that simple that make such a big difference.

We're taking mining workplace safety very, very seriously at the Ministry of Labour. Working together with the workers, the employers, the unions and the victims' families, we're going to continue to raise the bar so that these incidents simply don't happen again.

If I can close with a quote from Wendy Fram, who is Jordan's mom: "It does give some comfort, thinking we are fighting for changes that have to be made right." That speaks volumes.

## ENERGY POLICIES

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier said yesterday that "we won't see electricity prices rise" because of her reckless cap-and-trade plan. Yet the Independent Electricity System Operator, the energy experts that the Premier refused to consult, say otherwise. Recent IESO documents reveal that plugging in as few as four electric vehicles in a single neighbourhood could cause an overload. Our electricity system simply cannot handle the extra demand without billions of dollars in new transmission and distribution lines, as well as new power plants. The climate change plan does not include a single dollar for electricity system upgrades—not a single dollar.

How much will hydro rates have to rise to cover the Premier's irresponsible plan?

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**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** I know the Minister of Energy is going to want to weigh in on the supplementary. But Mr. Speaker, this is a perfect example of this party once again saying, "Don't do anything. Don't tackle climate change. Don't make any advances. Don't invest in electric vehicles. Don't invest in the charging stations" that we're investing in so that electric vehicles will have a longer range, "Don't do anything. Put your head in the sand. Pretend that climate change isn't happening," and hope—hope—that somehow our children and grandchildren will solve the problem. We're not going to do that. We are tackling this. We're going to work with industry. We'll work with the electricity system.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, we've been getting flak from the other side for the upgrading of the system that we've done. The 10,000 kilometres of line that we've put in—they've been giving us a hassle for the last five years. We're not taking lessons from them. We're tackling climate change. That's what we're doing.

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please. Order.

Supplementary?

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** The Premier loves to shout at me, but it's the IESO that's saying it, not me.

It's not just electric vehicles that will cause bills to rise; it's also the phase-out of natural gas. The Globe and Mail broke the news this morning that despite the Premier's repeated claims, cabinet approved the policy of phasing out reliance on natural gas. That means \$3,000 more every year for three quarters of Ontario businesses and families just to heat their homes and businesses.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Member from Glengarry—Prescott—Russell, come to order.

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** But it also means more stress on the electricity grid. Private sector estimates peg the upgrades at \$200 billion. Since not one more dollar from the cap-and-trade plan is going to improve the electricity grid, will the Premier tell Ontarians that their hydro bills are going to go up by another \$200 billion?

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Minister of Energy.

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli:** I'm sure the critic for the opposition is disappointed that our 2016 budget announced that cap-and-trade will take \$24 a year off residential bills and that commercial rates will, on average, not increase at all.

I'm sure the member understands that we do have a surplus of electricity at the present time—plenty of time to transition. We have a surplus that will take us through into 2022-23. He doesn't have the word "conservation" in his energy plan.

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** You've got to be able to deliver the electricity.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Member from Renfrew, second time.

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli:** We have been saving dollars in the system from conservation. If you take Campbell's food, their combined heat and power in Etobicoke, they're taking 400 megawatts off the grid with that program. That will continue to happen with all of our cap-and-trade programs.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** New question, the member from—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Be seated, please.

**Mr. John Yakabuski:** Roger Whittaker is going to come down and sing The Last Farewell in a moment.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** He'll take your place if you keep going.

New question. The member from Toronto—Danforth.

## ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD

**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** My question is to the Minister of Energy. The city of Toronto is thinking about selling off Toronto Hydro, just like the Premier is selling off Hydro One. The minister defends the Hydro One sale by claiming that the Ontario Energy Board will protect the public from arbitrary rate increases. But the Auditor General found that the OEB had approved rate increases for Hydro One that were supposed to pay for replacing aging transformers that were in fact never replaced—never.

Hydro One made misrepresentations to the OEB, but instead of taking action, the minister named a Hydro One

vice-president to the Ontario Energy Board. Why should we trust the OEB to protect the public from high rates when the minister stacks the board with insiders who are hostile to consumers?

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli:** It's an old question that has been asked by that critic a number of times, Mr. Speaker. He knows that the Ontario Energy Board, first of all, is an independent body. He also knows that in application after application after application the Ontario Energy Board has reduced the amount that has been asked for. They now have new legislation, which we've passed in this session, that increases the ability of the Ontario Energy Board to provide daily fines of up to \$1 million for those utilities, those people who apply to the board, on an ongoing basis. They are responsible, they have done their job and they will continue to do so.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** Before the government stripped the Auditor General of her oversight of Hydro One, she found that Hydro One had failed to make the equipment upgrades that previous rate increases were supposed to pay for. The chair of the OEB says that they're not auditors and so when a utility asks ratepayers for more money, the OEB will not bother to determine if that money was actually used properly for what it was claimed to be used for. Similarly, when Torontonians called on the OEB to investigate whether Anthony Haines, the CEO of Toronto Hydro, had lied under oath about his credentials, the OEB dismissed them and apparently no investigation took place.

How can we believe that this sleepy watchdog will defend Torontonians from soaring rates based on any misrepresentation from Toronto Hydro?

**Hon. Bob Chiarelli:** I respect the commitment that the member has to the environment and to the energy sector, but I think that it is not appropriate that he try to smear the Ontario Energy Board to the extent that he is doing right now. The members are independent. There is a very, very strong diligence that's done when people come on the board. They have a cross-section of board members who act very, very responsibly. What he's doing now is doing nothing but smearing the Ontario Energy Board members who are responsible regulators in our system and are known to be so across North America.

## RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** My question is for the Minister of Research and Innovation.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Member for Hamilton East–Stoney Creek, second time.

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** This morning, Minister Moridi and I were honoured to welcome Professor Arthur McDonald to Queen's Park. As this chamber heard and rejoiced last year, Dr. McDonald, professor emeritus at Queen's University, was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics. He and his team discovered that the tiny particles known as neutrinos have mass.

Dr. McDonald's scientific contributions have advanced our understanding of the universe and set the path for new directions in the study of quantum physics and astronomy. His innovative vision has made Ontario and, indeed, Canada a global leader in the field of particle astrophysics, paving the way for a deeper, richer understanding of the world that we live in.

Can the minister please tell us more about how the government of Ontario continues to support breakthrough research allowing for scientific contributions such as Dr. McDonald's to become a reality?

**Hon. Reza Moridi:** I want to thank the member from Kingston and the Islands for that very timely question.

We are truly honoured to host Dr. McDonald and his team here today. The government of Ontario has committed and delivered \$627 million towards 164 research projects through the Ontario Research Fund. Projects funded by the Ontario Research Fund have delivered \$3.3 billion in funding and have helped create more than 100,000 highly paid jobs and training opportunities in the province of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, our government's continued commitment to funding research and innovation in the province of Ontario allows researchers such as Nobel laureate Dr. McDonald to reach unprecedented breakthroughs and achievements.

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**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Supplementary?

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** It is wonderful to hear that the government has committed to supporting scientific research in this province. As we heard last year, Dr. McDonald's research was conducted at the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory, or SNOLAB, in partnership with Queen's University. And, as we've heard, the SNOLAB is a cutting-edge research facility located two kilometres underground, specializing in neutrino and dark matter physics. The ultra-clean environment of the observatory allows for measurements that cannot be made anywhere else in the world as well as observation of rare scientific phenomena which occur only a few times a year.

The existence of the SNOLAB allowed for Dr. McDonald and his team to conduct his experiment, which resulted in a discovery that changed our very understanding of the innermost workings of matter and our view of the universe. Could the minister please tell me how the government continues to support laboratories such as Dr. McDonald's?

**Hon. Reza Moridi:** I want to thank the member again for that very timely question. The SNO laboratory, in partnership with Queen's University, allows all universities across the province of Ontario to collaborate on significant scientific breakthroughs.

The historical contribution of SNOLAB to the Ontario economy is estimated to be as much as \$227 million. Since its inception, SNOLAB has received approximately \$38 million in provincial funding.

SNOLAB enhances the province's profile in the global scientific community as it is a global leader in fundamental physics. Additionally, the lab trains and

develops highly qualified personnel in Ontario and inspires the next generation of scientists and engineers in our wonderful country, Canada.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** A point of order, the member from Leeds–Grenville.

**Mr. Steve Clark:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent for this House to direct the Standing Committee on Justice Policy to investigate the alleged deletion of documents at TO2015 in relation to the Pan/Parapan American Games; that the committee be—

*Interjections.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Leeds–Grenville is seeking unanimous consent. Do we agree? I heard a no.

#### MEMBER'S ANNIVERSARY

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Point of order, the Premier.

**Hon. Kathleen O. Wynne:** Speaker, I'd ask that we all take a moment to recognize that today is the 39th anniversary of the member for St. Catharines being elected to this House and congratulate him on his many years of dedicated service to the people of Ontario.

*Applause.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The Minister of Aboriginal Affairs on a point of order.

**Hon. David Zimmer:** I seek unanimous consent that the member can speak for up to two minutes only.

*Interjection.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I have to hear a no. He's seeking unanimous consent to speak for up to two minutes.

**Hon. James J. Bradley:** No.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Oh, I heard a no.

For the record, he's got socks older than I am. That's an inside joke. It won't play well in Hansard, but it's an inside joke.

#### LEGISLATIVE PAGES

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** We have two pieces of serious information.

The first one is to announce to you that this is the last day for our pages. I want to take a moment to say to these pages, thank you very much for your service to Ontario.

*Applause.*

#### DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Now, on a serious note, I do have a response.

On Tuesday, June 7, 2016, the member from Simcoe–Grey, Mr. Wilson, raised a question of privilege with respect to the government's proposed climate change action plan. According to the member, the release of this plan to the media before its announcement or tabling in the House amounted to contempt of the House. The member from Timmins–James Bay, Monsieur Bisson,

and the government House leader, Mr. Naqvi, also spoke to this matter. Having reviewed the relevant media references, the precedents, the authorities, the Hansard for June 7 and the written submissions of the member from Simcoe–Grey and the government House leader, I am now prepared to rule on the matter.

The member from Simcoe–Grey referenced section 7(6) of the Climate Change Mitigation and Low-carbon Economy Act, 2016, which provides as follows: "The minister shall, before January 1, 2017, lay the action plan before the assembly and make it available to the public on a website of the government or in such other manner as may be prescribed by the regulations." According to the member, this provision required the plan to be tabled in the House before the media received it. The government House leader had a different interpretation of that provision. In response, I have to say that I cannot rule on the interpretation of that provision because, as members well know, Speakers traditionally avoid interpreting laws.

The member from Simcoe–Grey also cited rulings by Speakers of the Canadian House of Commons. The rulings relate to the premature disclosure of the contents of bills prior to their introduction in the House. In the rulings, the Speaker ruled that the premature disclosure of the contents of "bills on notice" amounted to a *prima facie* case. The reference to the words "on notice" is important because the standing orders of the House of Commons require 48 hours' notice before bills can be introduced in the House. Such bills are House business. Under our standing orders, however, neither bills nor policy announcements are placed on notice. Therefore, the cited rules are not applicable to the case at hand and as a result I am unable to find that a *prima facie* case of contempt has been established.

In so ruling, however, I want to remind members that from time to time previous Speakers have expressed misgivings about new government initiatives being announced outside the House before being announced inside the House. As I indicated in this House on April 14, 2014:

"Whether it be the government's financial plan, or any other measure or announcement, Speakers have repeatedly looked unfavourably upon it when the House has not been the first to receive such information. There are rulings almost too numerous to compile in which Speakers have admonished governments for doing this, and defending the Legislature's claim to be the first recipient of major announcements."

And in a November 2, 2009 ruling, the Speaker ruled as follows:

"I and my predecessors have repeatedly conveyed our deep concern about how these types of extra-parliamentary announcements erode the stature of Parliament. Speakers have repeatedly implored governments to consider the impact of this erosion and how it damages the reputation of the foundation institution of this province.... In an ideal world where the legitimate and historic role of the Legislative Assembly, and specifically of the loyal

opposition, were given first consideration, I expect that what a previous Speaker referred to as these types of 'administrative discourtesies' would not arise."

The incident raised by the member from Simcoe–Grey is different in that it deals with the media—not the government—announcing a government initiative, but the reality is that the media somehow acquired the information. In the case at hand, I have no personal knowledge that the government released details of the initiative to the media, but I would have more than misgivings if such releases were motivated by a patently obvious desire to undermine parliamentary processes.

In closing, I thank the member from Simcoe–Grey, the member from Timmins–James Bay and the government House leader for their submissions.

## DEFERRED VOTES

### SMOKE-FREE ONTARIO AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LA LOI FAVORISANT UN ONTARIO SANS FUMÉE

Deferred vote on the motion for third reading of the following bill:

Bill 178, An Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act / Projet de loi 178, Loi modifiant la Loi favorisant un Ontario sans fumée.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Call in the members. This will be a five-minute bell.

*The division bells rang from 1209 to 1214.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** On Wednesday, June 8, 2016, Mr. Fraser moved third reading of Bill 178, An Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.

All those in favour, please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

#### Ayes

Albanese, Laura	Gravelle, Michael	Moridi, Reza
Arnott, Ted	Gretzky, Lisa	Munro, Julia
Bailey, Robert	Hardeman, Ernie	Murray, Glen R.
Baker, Yvan	Harris, Michael	Naidoo-Harris, Indira
Ballard, Chris	Hatfield, Percy	Naqvi, Yasir
Berardinetti, Lorenzo	Hoggarth, Ann	Oraziotti, David
Bisson, Gilles	Horwath, Andrea	Pettapiece, Randy
Bradley, James J.	Hoskins, Eric	Potts, Arthur
Brown, Patrick	Hudak, Tim	Qaadri, Shafiq
Chan, Michael	Hunter, Mitzie	Rinaldi, Lou
Chiarelli, Bob	Jaczek, Helena	Sandals, Liz
Clark, Steve	Jones, Sylvia	Scott, Laurie
Coe, Lorne	Kiwala, Sophie	Sergio, Mario
Colle, Mike	Kwinter, Monte	Singh, Jagmeet
Coteau, Michael	Lalonde, Marie-France	Smith, Todd
Crack, Grant	Leal, Jeff	Sousa, Charles
Damerla, Dipika	MacCharles, Tracy	Tabuns, Peter
Del Duca, Steven	Malhi, Harinder	Takhar, Harinder S.
Delaney, Bob	Mangat, Amrit	Taylor, Monique
Dhillon, Vic	Martins, Cristina	Thibeault, Glenn
Dickson, Joe	Martow, Gila	Thompson, Lisa M.
Dong, Han	Matthews, Deborah	Vanthof, John
Duguid, Brad	McDonnell, Jim	Vernile, Daiene
Fife, Catherine	McGarry, Kathryn	Walker, Bill
Flynn, Kevin Daniel	McMahon, Eleanor	Wong, Soo
Fraser, John	McMeekin, Ted	Wynne, Kathleen O.

French, Jennifer K.  
Gates, Wayne  
Gélinas, France

Meilleur, Madeleine  
Milczyn, Peter Z.  
Miller, Paul

Yakubski, John  
Yurek, Jeff  
Zimmer, David

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** All those opposed, please rise one at a time and be recognized by the Clerk.

#### Nays

Hillier, Randy

**The Clerk of the Assembly (Ms. Deborah Deller):** The ayes are 87; the nays are 1.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I declare the motion carried.

Be it resolved that the bill do now pass and be entitled as in the motion.

*Third reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Before we recess, I just wanted to offer the House my wishes for you to have a safe, healthy break from this House, but knowing that you work tirelessly year-round. I wish you all the best for the summer break.

There are no deferred votes. This House stands recessed until 1 p.m.

*The House recessed from 1217 to 1300.*

## MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### SKILLS TRAINING

**Mr. Lorne Coe:** I'd like to take this opportunity as the official opposition critic for training, colleges and universities to speak about the skills mismatch and its effects in my riding of Whitby–Oshawa.

A great young man from my riding graduated from teachers' college last year. He's always wanted to teach, but for the past year he has not been able to find employment. After an interview with the Durham District School Board, he did not get the position and was told that he could not reapply for a full year. Thousands from teachers' college will be graduating this year and diluting this young man's opportunities.

The skills mismatch continues to grow and all the government can say is that they're conducting another review. This government has had 13 years to conduct their reviews. Parents in my riding want to know that their sons and daughters can leave university, college or an apprenticeship with a real opportunity to start a career. It's time for the government to take real action and stop graduating people for yesterday's jobs.

### AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

**Ms. Jennifer K. French:** The manufacturing industry isn't what it used to be, nor should it be. As a province, we should be moving forward. We should be an example for the world to follow, but what we shouldn't be doing is leaving people behind. Tomorrow, General Motors will

announce its plan to hire 1,000 new engineers to boost its research and development in Canada. Make no mistake—this is a good-news announcement. It is an important step forward for the auto industry in Ontario and in Oshawa.

I'm encouraged by General Motors's continued commitment to Oshawa, but the fact is that families in our community continue to remain uncertain about their future. Without a new product mandate from General Motors and without a promise to keep the existing 2,500 jobs at the assembly plants, our community is left with more questions than answers.

Oshawa has been a leader in the automotive industry for decades and as we continue to grow as an innovation hub, we must also ensure that the thousands of families that built GM are not left behind. These families have been left in the lurch for more than a decade and they deserve to know what the future will hold. Oshawa is and always will be "motor city," and that is thanks to the efforts of generations of GM employees in our community. Hard work shouldn't go unnoticed, and it shouldn't be forgotten.

I ask that the government work with GM and fight for our community. Tomorrow's announcement will ensure that the cars of the future will be developed in Oshawa. Now let's make sure they are built in Oshawa too.

#### CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Mr. Yvan Baker:** I hold a monthly seniors' advisory group meeting in my riding of Etobicoke Centre. When I started having those meetings, I began to hear from seniors who told me that they had received unwanted sales offers at their door, where salespeople use coercive, aggressive, misleading sales tactics to entice them into contracts, to take advantage of them, right at their own doorsteps.

Under the guise of saving consumers money, many dishonest salespeople dupe consumers into contracts that are more expensive than industry standards, that have harsh cancellation fees, and that provide inferior products and services that don't work or that don't perform as advertised.

While this is an issue that cuts across all ages and backgrounds, it's alarming to see how often they target those who can be vulnerable. It is beyond reprehensible to me that some organizations have a business model that's based on taking advantage of vulnerable people.

That is why I introduced Bill 193, the Door-to-Door Sales Prohibition Act, which would ban the sale, lease or rent at a consumer's home of products that have been the subject of these reprehensible tactics. I am pleased to note that consumer groups, CARP and a number of municipalities have passed motions supporting my bill and urging a provincial ban on door-to-door sales of these products. They include the city of Brampton, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Oshawa, Pickering, the township of North Dundas, the township of Wellington North and the city of Toronto, amongst others.

Consumers have spoken, advocacy groups have spoken, and now the municipalities are speaking up as

well. We must take action to protect Ontarians from these predatory practices. When my bill is presented for second reading this afternoon, I hope that all members will join me in supporting this legislation. The seniors in my riding and consumers across Ontario deserve no less.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Ms. Laurie Scott:** We hear there may be a government announcement on human trafficking later this month, even though we gather here, on the last day of the House for this session, still not having a public, comprehensive strategy or adequate dedicated funding. The government has had many opportunities to take action and has chosen not to.

My motion for a human trafficking task force was unanimously supported back in 2015—no task force yet. As well, my private member's bill, Saving The Girl Next Door Act, passed second reading unanimously in February, yet it is still languishing in committee. And this year's budget, again back in February, was the most direct place for this government to show it cared to prioritize this battle, yet the result was no immediate monies dedicated to fight human trafficking.

There are reports of human trafficking incidents week after week. In April, the OPP, RCMP and Canada Border Services laid charges against 80 people for sexual assault, and making, distributing and accessing child pornography. Investigators also found minors, including girls 14 to 16 years old, working in the sex trade against their will. What does it take for this government to understand that every single passing day without action leaves a victim without rescue?

Municipalities get it. Toronto, the GTA, Hamilton, Peterborough, over to Grey county and all the way up to Hearst and Moosonee understand. In fact, 135 municipalities to date have passed resolutions in support of my legislation against human trafficking. It is a province-wide crisis.

Moreover, appropriate funding needs to reach all arms, from police forces to victim services, to have real effect. This has to be a co-ordinated effort. A multijurisdictional task force is needed now.

#### NEW LISKEARD BIKERS REUNION

**Mr. John Vanthof:** I rise today to invite motorcyclists from across the province to the New Liskeard Bikers Reunion. It's on the long weekend of July, the July 1 long weekend.

Over 15 years, this has gone from 20 bikers and a barbecue to an event where over 6,000 motorcyclists come to New Liskeard and Temiskaming Shores every year. It's a family-friendly event. One of the highlights of this event is the Freedom Ride. It's about 10 miles of motorcycles on a route. It's closed off. The police and everybody participates. We go in front of the hospital and give gifts to cancer patients. Seeing the kids out there with the yellow T-shirts, the cancer survivors, is truly a moving experience.

I invite you specifically this year because this, sadly, is going to be the last year of the Bikers Reunion. The driving force behind the Bikers Reunion, Barry Phippen, the originator and still the driving force, has decided, along with his committee—they've got a lot of volunteers—that they're going to end this on a high note. This is going to be the biggest and best Bikers Reunion people have ever seen.

If you want to get there, you just have to go up Highway 11. You'll start seeing big, yellow signs in memory of cancer patients. They raise a lot of money for cancer. There are more signs for the Bikers Reunion than any election campaign in history.

It's a great event. I'd like to thank Barry. Over the years, they have raised over \$1 million, which is held in trust by the Temiskaming Foundation, and the proceeds of that will help cancer patients for many, many years to come.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. It sounds like hog heaven.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** Triumph, Mr. Speaker.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I just slipped it in there.

#### AJAX HOME WEEK

**Mr. Joe Dickson:** It's a joy to be back here this afternoon. I was scared we might have to leave at the noon hour.

I'd like to bring forth information on the 46th annual Ajax Home Week, which commences in two days' time, Sunday, June 12 through June 19, ending on Father's Day. It is a series of community groups—the Kinsmen, Lions, Optimists, Rotary, Legion and a number of other church and community groups—who assist in producing this week. Generally, it's to say thank you to all of the people of Ajax and area for all of the fundraising that people help them with so that they can contribute continually to service and charitable groups.

The week-long celebration, of course, is absolutely for everyone, something we put in the very first day 46 years ago, regardless of gender, religion, race, age or personal means, and over 60% of the events are no charge.

I'm looking—I won't have time to finish, Mr. Speaker, but you're very generous with me.

The first one is on Sunday, June 12, at Ajax Downs, everything under the sun: free horse racing, free petting zoo, exotic animals, a mini-zoo, children's entertainment professional groups, adult entertainment professional groups, and it goes on.

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Monday night is the Lions' pasta night. Tuesday and Thursday night are Joe and Donna Dickson free swim nights at the McLean centre—first there, first served. On Thursday, it's the St. Timothy's church barbecue—that's a great time as well. Fionn MacCool's will hold a giant party in the Durham centre. There's a free classic antique car show at Canadian Tire in the Durham centre—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Ahem.

**Mr. Joe Dickson:** I'm getting down to the last day, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for your generosity.

There is a peace and harmony multicultural concert at Forest Brook church, and the big day—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Oh, the big day?

**Mr. Joe Dickson:** The big day, if I could, Mr. Speaker, is the last day, Father's Day. It's what emergency services and first responders do. They do a day. We bring in the police helicopter—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** I thank the member from Ajax-Pickering.

**Mr. Joe Dickson:** —and it goes on and on and on. It ends with the largest fireworks in all of Durham region. That's in Ajax-Pickering. We'll see you. I thank you for your—

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. It's called a word count.

#### JENNA'S LEMONADE STAND

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** I'm so excited to see here in the members' gallery Jenna and her sister, Jordyn, and their mom—I'm sorry, her name escaped me for a second, but it will come to me in a minute—Elise. They are the Zaracoff family, and they're doing Jenna's Lemonade Stand again this year in memory of their father and late husband, Stewart, who died of lymphoma. It's a fantastic fundraiser, and this Saturday, rain or shine, at 11 a.m. it's going to be at 45 Loma Vista Drive in Thornhill.

You can go online to donate, if you can't make it, at [www.lymphoma.ca](http://www.lymphoma.ca). There are going to be lemonade treats, bracelets—all kinds of stuff for sale. It's a lot of fun. It's just a short walk from my house. I hope to see lots of people there. This is the sixth year they're doing this fundraiser.

I just want to mention to people—I've said it a few times in this House—that in Thornhill people don't just talk; they do. They don't say, "Oh, you know what? We need to raise money for a cause," or "We care about something in the community." They write letters to the editor. They set up a charity. They join the charity. They go to support the charities.

That's why it's such an honour for me to represent Thornhill and to see people like Jenna and her sister. I'm sorry that the security guard made you turn your t-shirts inside out. They had wonderful t-shirts that said, "Jenna's Lemonade Stand." The colour to support lymphoma is purple.

I urge everybody to go online to donate, to stop by Jenna's Lemonade Stand, which Jordyn helps so much with, to wear purple and to support. Keep a smile on your face, because we're such a great community.

#### MEDIA TECHNOLOGIES FACILITY

**Mr. Peter Z. Milczyn:** A couple of weeks ago, I was thrilled to attend an exciting celebration at Cinespace Film Studios in my riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore. York University announced the opening of a new satellite

campus location of York University's School of the Arts, Media, Performance and Design in Etobicoke–Lakeshore. Alongside Mamdouh Shoukri, president and vice-chancellor of York University; Jeff O'Hagan, York University's vice-president for advancement; and Shawn Brixey, dean of the School of Arts, Media, Performance and Design, the Mirkopoulos family announced that they have provided a generous donation of \$2.5 million to create a new York University AMPD motion media studio at Cinespace Film Studios.

This state-of-the-art facility for teaching, learning and producing content is embedded at Cinespace's Kipling Avenue studio complex in my riding. This will allow students to explore the creation, convergence and application of next-generation arts and entertainment media technologies. These students will be able to do so in a real movie studio environment, thereby enhancing the value of their academic pursuits.

This generous gift will also have a lasting impact on Etobicoke–Lakeshore as it continues to establish itself as a world-recognized film and creative industries hub.

With this addition of a second post-secondary learning institution in my riding, the first being Humber College, my community is welcoming both students and industry to thrive in Ontario.

#### BEACHES INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

**Mr. Arthur Potts:** It gives me great pleasure to rise to inform the House today that tomorrow my private member's bill looking after the tips of precarious employees comes into effect.

Not only are we out there protecting precarious workers in Ontario—and I'm very excited about that—but I'm really excited to tell you about the 28th Beaches International Jazz Festival, which starts July 2. It has now extended to a third week, three weekends, starting on July 2. The first week is dedicated to salsa. I'm going to try to encourage the minister of fun and fitness, Minister Coteau, to come and join us there and get his salsa groove on.

They continue this year to have the very popular Queen StreetFest. For every couple of blocks, they have a different band, all local bands from across Ontario and the GTA, who play on the street corners, and you can walk up and down Queen Street. But this year, they've extended it way out into Riverdale and into Leslieville as well. That day coming up will be an incredible day. I encourage everyone to get around.

We are also returning this year to Kew Gardens stage, which is where Lido Chillelli founded the Beaches jazz fest 28 years ago. It has been on at Woodbine Park because the crowds got so big, but we're going back to Kew Gardens for a mini-series. And A Cappella is making a second year, A Cappella was so successful last year.

Finally, we're now moving the Beaches jazz into what we call the Farmers' Market Series. All the farmers'

markets in the east end of Toronto are going to have the opportunity to have a local band playing music during the festival while people are buying fresh goods in Ontario, because, Speaker, good things do grow in Ontario.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Thank you. I think you meant the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport. I think that's what you meant.

#### WEARING OF PINS

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** On a point of order, the member from Newmarket–Aurora.

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** Yes, point of order, Mr. Speaker. I believe that you'll find we have unanimous consent that members be permitted to wear pins for brain tumour awareness.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member from Newmarket–Aurora is seeking unanimous consent to wear the pins for brain tumour awareness. Do we agree? Agreed. Thank you.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

##### DELEGATED ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITIES ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY ACT, 2016

##### LOI DE 2016 SUR LA RESPONSABILISATION ET LA TRANSPARENCE DES ORGANISMES D'APPLICATION DÉLÉGATAIRES

Mr. McDonnell moved first reading of the following bill:

Bill 219, An Act to amend various Acts with respect to delegated administrative authorities / Projet de loi 219, Loi modifiant diverses lois en ce qui concerne les organismes d'application délégués.

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? Carried.

*First reading agreed to.*

**The Speaker (Hon. Dave Levac):** The member for a short statement.

**Mr. Jim McDonnell:** Currently, under the Condominium Act, 1998, the Condominium Management Services Act, 2015, the Delegated Administrative Authorities Act, 2012, and the safety and consumer statutes, the Lieutenant Governor in Council can delegate the administration of the act or certain specified acts to the administrative authority.

In addition, under each of the Ontario New Home Warranties Plan Act, the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, the Technical Standards and Safety Act and the Vintners Quality Alliance Act, there's an administrative authority responsible for administering the act.

The bill deals with all of those administrative authorities. Currently, the minister responsible for administering each act can appoint one or more members to the board of directors or the administrative authority. The bill transfers that power to the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

The bill also requires the Auditor General to do annual audits of the accounts and financial transactions of each of the administrative authorities. The bill amends the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to make administrative authorities institutions that are subject to the act, and the bill makes the investment act and the disclosure requirements of the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act applicable to administrative authorities.

## PETITIONS

### HIGHWAY RAMPS

**Mrs. Julia Munro:** My petition is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury will continue to have robust growth of population and commercial activity in proximity to the Holland Marsh, Ontario's salad bowl, which consists of 7,000 acres of specialty crop area lands designated in the provincial Greenbelt Plan and is situated along the municipal boundary between King township and the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury...;

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"Whereas the Canal Road ramps at Highway 400 provide critical access for farm operations within the Holland Marsh...;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the council of the corporation of the town of Bradford West Gwillimbury hereby advises the Honourable Steven Del Duca, Minister of Transportation, that the town does not support the elimination of the Canal Road ramps at Highway 400, and further, that the town requests that the duration of the temporary closure of Canal Road between Wist Road and Davis Road be minimized to the greatest extent possible during the Highway 400/North Canal bridge replacement project."

As I am in complete agreement, I will affix my signature and give it to page Waleed.

### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I have this petition that comes from all over Ontario, but mainly from northern Ontario. It reads as follows:

"Nurses Know—Petition for Better Care.

"To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Whereas providing high-quality, universal, public health care is crucial for a fair and thriving Ontario; and

"Whereas years of underfunding have resulted in cuts to registered nurses (RNs) and hurt patient care; and

"Whereas, in 2015 alone, Ontario lost more than 1.5 million hours of RN care due to cuts; and

"Whereas procedures are being off-loaded into private clinics not subject to hospital legislation; and

"Whereas funded services are being cut from hospitals and are not being provided in the community; and

"Whereas cutting skilled care means patients suffer more complications, readmissions and death;

"Therefore we, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Implement a moratorium on RN cuts;

"Commit to restoring hospital base operating funding to at least cover the costs of inflation and population growth;

"Create a fully-funded multi-year health human resources plan to bring Ontario's ratio of registered nurses to population up to the national average;

"Ensure hospitals have enough resources to continue providing safe, quality and integrated care for clinical procedures and stop plans for moving such procedures into private, unaccountable clinics."

I fully support this petition, will affix my name to it and ask page Colleen to bring it to the Clerk.

### WATER FLUORIDATION

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** I have a petition to the Ontario Legislative Assembly entitled "Update Ontario Fluoridation Legislation." It reads like this:

"Whereas scientific studies conducted during the past 70 years have consistently shown that community water fluoridation is a safe and effective means of preventing dental decay and is a public health measure endorsed by more than 90 national and international health organizations, including the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ontario Dental Association; and

"Whereas recent experience in Canadian cities that have removed fluoride from drinking water has led directly to a dramatic increase in tooth decay; and

"Whereas the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care urges support for amending the Fluoridation Act to ensure community water fluoridation is mandatory; and

"Whereas the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing urges support for the removal of provisions allowing Ontario municipalities to cease drinking water fluoridation, or fail to start drinking water fluoridation, from the Ontario Municipal Act;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"That the Premier of Ontario direct the Ministries of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Health and Long-Term Care to amend all applicable legislation and regulations to make the fluoridation of municipal drinking water mandatory in all municipal water systems across the province of Ontario before the end of the first session of the current Ontario Parliament."

## SCHOOL CLOSURES

**Mr. Bill Walker:** “To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“The Owen Sound community connects students from a 30-kilometre radius into a well-established network of neighbourhood schools. For over 160 years, the Owen Sound Collegiate and Vocational Institute (OSCVI) has provided opportunities for our young people to excel. Graduates include: Agnes Macphail, Norman Bethune, Retta Kilborn, Billy Bishop and thousands of others. When the original OSCVI building was demolished our community was told the new facility would outlast us all (or at least for another 150 years). It was designed with the needs of secondary students in mind and continues to be a centre of excellence for our student population, and a source of community pride;

“Whereas the recent public ARC discussion in the community was over a very different proposal (which was supported in the community);

“Whereas the plan announced by the Bluewater District School Board on March 1st was a complete change and the public was not adequately consulted;

“Whereas students, parents and the community had less than 50 days to adjust to the sudden closure of their school—as students are preparing for final exams; and

“Whereas the city of Owen Sound has requested a delay of one year to prepare for a major change;

“We request that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario ask the Bluewater board of education to delay the implementation of any school closures and amalgamation by one year, to allow for students and the community to adjust, and to permit stakeholder groups to consult on the proposal to close OSCVI.”

I fully support it, will affix my name and send it with my buddy page Sahil.

## SPECIAL-NEEDS STUDENTS

**Mrs. Lisa Gretzky:** I have a petition called “Stop the Closure of Provincial and Demonstration Schools.

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas provincial and demonstration schools in Ontario provide education programs and services for students with special education needs;

“Whereas there are four provincial and three demonstration schools for anglophone deaf, blind, deaf-blind and/or severely learning-disabled students, as well as one school for francophone students who are deaf, deaf-blind and/or have severe learning disabilities;

“Whereas even with early identification and early intervention, local school boards are not equipped to handle the needs of these students, who are our most vulnerable children;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to:

“(a) oppose the closure of provincial and demonstration schools and recognize that these specialized schools are the last hope for many children;

“(b) stop the enrollment freeze at these schools in order for students and their families, who have exhausted all other available resources, to have access to equal education for themselves without added costs, to which they, like all students, are entitled to.”

I fully support the petition and will send it to the table with page Waleed.

## GRADE SEPARATION

**Mrs. Cristina Martins:** It gives me great pleasure to rise in the House today to present just over 2,000 signatures on this petition, which is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“Whereas the Davenport community is a strong, vibrant, diverse and engaged community committed to improving the well-being of all community members;

“Whereas Metrolinx has proposed a 1.5-kilometre elevated rail bridge through the Davenport community to bypass the current Davenport Diamond crossing, where the Barrie GO line intersects with the CP main line;

“Whereas our community recognizes and supports the expansion of public transit across Toronto and the GTA to create a stronger region;

“Whereas we feel that the Davenport community was not given the opportunity to consider the risks, benefits, and opportunities between a bridge, tunnel, or trench when this project was announced;

“Whereas the signing of this petition is not an endorsement of Metrolinx’s plan to build an overpass, but rather an understanding of the issues and concerns that need to be addressed before proceeding;

“Whereas our community has been clear in calling for the Davenport Diamond grade separation project to be a city-building exercise that truly benefits all communities along the corridor;

“Whereas numerous community organizations have been working to advocate on the issues and concerns that many area residents have with this project; and

“Whereas we share many of the same issues and concerns as the city and community organizations with this project which have been previously outlined in an open letter to Metrolinx;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“To ensure that the government of Ontario and Metrolinx meet the requirements of the Davenport community as outlined in the open letter dated April 26, 2016 including but not limited to developing a comprehensive vision with a separate budget for public realm improvements and a design competition; addressing noise, vibration, and safety issues and concerns to the community’s satisfaction; creating a multi-modal station at Bloor; establishing cycling and walking connections throughout including connections to the West Toronto Railpath, the green line and an elevated connection to Earls Court Park; devising a long-term maintenance plan and endowment fund for community programming in conjunction with the community and city; resolving

concerns relating to Dupont St.; and additionally to provide the community with a date commitment to electrify the corridor and a guarantee that no more than the proposed 36 trains per day will be in use until electric trains are operational on the corridor.”

I agree with this petition and will affix my name and send it to the table with page Julia.

### NATURAL GAS

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** This is a very short petition. It's addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario for natural gas lines to be installed in our community, known as Enniskillen township—Shiloh Line from Mandaumin in the east to Oil Heritage Road in the east.”

Madam Speaker, I agree with this petition, affix my signature to it and send it down with Alexandra.

### HOSPITAL FUNDING

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I have this petition that comes from all over Ontario. I'd like to thank Madame Sharon Simpson from Val Caron in my riding. It goes as follows:

“Whereas Health Sciences North is facing major budget shortfalls leading to a decrease of 87,000 hours of nursing care in psychiatry, day surgery, the surgical unit, obstetrics, mental health services, oncology, critical care, and the emergency department....;

“Whereas Ontario's provincial government has cut hospital funding in real dollar terms for the last eight years in a row; and

“Whereas these cuts will risk higher medical accident rates as nursing and direct patient care hours are reduced all across the hospital;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to:

“Stop the proposed cuts to Health Sciences North and protect beds and services....”

I fully support this petition, will affix my name to it and ask Daniel to bring it to the Clerk.

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### BLOOD DONATION

**Mr. Glenn Thibeault:** I rise today to introduce a petition by folks from my great riding of Sudbury and from the riding of Barrie. Mostly these signatories are from the Laurentian Students' Union and from the Georgian College Pride association. Their petition is to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

“Whereas current legislation prevents” gay men “from donating blood, we request action to allow blood to be donated ... in the same manner that heterosexuals are allowed to donate.

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“—to make changes which will allow all people to donate blood equally...;

“—to have mandatory screening decide if blood donation should be permitted in the blood bank;

“—to stop the current ... stereotyping of donors.”

I agree with this petition. I'll sign it and ask page Julia to take it to the Clerk.

### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mrs. Julia Munro:** “Whereas Ontario's growing and aging population is putting an increasing strain on our publicly funded health care system; ...

“We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

“The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care return to the table with Ontario's doctors and work together through mediation-arbitration to reach a fair deal that protects the quality, patient-focused care Ontario's families deserve.”

As I am in favour of this, I have affixed my name to give it to page Ariane.

### POST-SECONDARY SECTOR EMPLOYEES

**Mrs. Lisa Gretzky:** I have a petition entitled “Supporting Fair Pay and Fair Wages in the Post-Secondary Sector.”

“To the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

“Whereas the government is obligated to spend public funds in a manner which delivers quality services and supports the sustainability of the province; and

“Whereas post-secondary institutions in Ontario receive over \$5 billion in public funds, and act as a critical pillar of Ontario's economy; and

“Whereas post-secondary institutions rely on the livability of the local communities as a contributing factor in attracting both student applications and qualified staff, as well as maintaining their global competitiveness; and

“Whereas studies show that living wages improve productivity, significantly reduce training costs, reduce worker absenteeism, provide for healthier communities with broader economic growth, and significantly increase the livability of a community; and

“Whereas there is an emerging trend in post-secondary institutions to substitute good-paying jobs with contracted-out services which rarely offer any benefits or pensions and do not provide fair pay and hours of work;

“We, the undersigned, petition the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities to end the practice of contracting out front-line jobs, and provide fair, stable hours of work as well as equitable remuneration.”

I'd like to thank Chris O'Keefe from my riding for sending this in. I support it, will sign it and send it to the desk with the page.

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I recognize the member for—

*Interjection.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Oh, so sorry. I recognize the member from Kitchener Centre.

**Ms. Daiene Vernile:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know over here we're in your peripheral and sometimes we don't get noticed, but thank you for noticing us.

This is a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas one in three women will experience some form of sexual assault in her lifetime.

"When public education about sexual violence and harassment is not prioritized, myths and attitudes informed by misogyny become prevalent. This promotes rape culture.

"Less than 10% of sexual violence cases are reported to police. For every 33 that are reported, only three result in a conviction....

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Support the findings and recommendations of the Select Committee on Sexual Violence and Harassment's final report, highlighting the need for inclusive and open dialogue to address misogyny and rape culture; educate about sexual violence and harassment to promote social change ... and address attrition rates within our justice system, including examining 'unfounded' cases, developing enhanced prosecution models and providing free legal advice for survivors."

I agree with this petition. I will put my name to it and I will give it to page Nadine to bring down to you.

## DRIVER LICENSES

**Mr. Jim McDonell:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas many residents and businesses in Ontario rely on the ability to drive a vehicle in order to work, buy food and otherwise function;

"Whereas licence suspension upon receipt of a medical notice to that effect is immediate; and

"Whereas constituents are forced to wait 30 business days following a positive medical review by their physician prior to being reinstated; and

"Whereas this wait time is not prescribed in any legislation or regulation, but is solely due to Ministry of Transportation policies that ignore the reality of living and operating a business, especially in rural and northern Ontario; and

"Whereas a needlessly long licence suspension threatens the livelihoods of many families in Ontario;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To direct the Ministry of Transportation to institute a five-business-day service guarantee for drivers' licence

reinstatements following the submission of a positive physician's review."

I agree with this and will pass it off to page Jacob.

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** A point of order, Madam Speaker?

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** A point of order from the member from Wellington-Halton Hills.

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** Since this is the last day of the spring sitting of the Legislature, I'm seeking the unanimous consent of the House to add an additional five minutes to petitions, for this afternoon only, so that members can get their petitions on, since the time has expired.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** The member from Wellington-Halton Hills has asked for unanimous consent for extension of the time for petitions. Is it the order of the House that it carries? Agreed.

All right. The member from Wellington-Halton Hills.

## HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mr. Ted Arnott:** I have a petition to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and it reads as follows:

"Whereas Ontario's growing and aging population is putting an increasing strain on our publicly funded health care system; and

"Whereas since February 2015, the Ontario government has made an almost 7% unilateral cut to physician services expenditures which cover all the care doctors provide to patients; and

"Whereas the decisions Ontario makes today will impact patients' access to quality care in the years to come and these cuts will threaten access to the quality, patient-focused care Ontarians need and expect;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care return to the table with Ontario's doctors and work together through mediation-arbitration to reach a fair deal that protects the quality, patient-focused care Ontario's families deserve."

I agree with this petition and I've affixed my signature to it. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

## PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC ASSETS

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I have this petition that's called "Privatizing Hydro One: Another Wrong Choice."

I'd like to thank Mr. Blaine Gautier from Val Therese for sending this. It goes as follows:

"Whereas once you privatize Hydro One, there's no return; and

"Whereas we'll lose billions in reliable annual revenues for schools and hospitals; and

"Whereas we'll lose our biggest economic asset and control over our energy future; and

"Whereas we'll pay higher and higher hydro bills just like what's happened elsewhere;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To stop the sale of Hydro One and make sure Ontario families benefit from owning Hydro One now and for generations to come."

I fully agree with this petition, affix my name to it and give it to Thomas.

### HEALTH CARE FUNDING

**Mr. Robert Bailey:** This petition is addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"Whereas Ontario's growing and aging population is putting an increasing strain on our publicly funded health care system....

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"The Minister of Health and Long-Term Care return to the table with Ontario's doctors and work together through mediation-arbitration to reach a fair deal that protects the quality, patient-focused care Ontario's families deserve."

This is signed by hundreds of people. I'll send it down with Jacob to the table.

### GASOLINE PRICES

**M<sup>me</sup> France Gélinas:** I have this petition that comes mainly from the north. I would like to recognize—I forgot the name now—Madame Carmen Kingsley from Hanmer. It reads as follows:

"Whereas northern Ontario motorists continue to be subject to wild fluctuations in the price of gasoline; and

"Whereas the province could eliminate opportunistic price gouging and deliver fair, stable and predictable fuel prices; and

"Whereas five provinces and many US states already have some sort of gas price regulation; and

"Whereas jurisdictions with gas price regulation have seen an end to wild price fluctuations, a shrinking of price discrepancies between urban and rural communities and lower annualized gas prices;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"Mandate the Ontario Energy Board to monitor the price of gasoline across Ontario in order to reduce price volatility and unfair regional price differences while encouraging competition."

I fully support this petition, affix my name to it and give it to Emily.

### LUNG HEALTH

**Mr. Shafiq Qadri:** I have a petition addressed to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario regarding lung disease.

"Whereas lung disease affects more than 2.4 million people in the province of Ontario, more than 570,000 of whom are children and youth living with asthma;

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"Of the four chronic diseases responsible for 79% of deaths (cancers, cardiovascular diseases, lung disease and

diabetes) lung disease is the only one without a dedicated province-wide strategy;

"In the Ontario Lung Association report, Your Lungs, Your Life, it is estimated that lung disease currently costs the Ontario taxpayers more than \$4 billion a year in direct and indirect health care costs, and that this figure is estimated to rise to more than \$80 billion seven short years from now;

"We, the undersigned, petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

"To allow for deputations on MPP Kathryn McGarry's private member's bill, Bill 41, Lung Health Act, 2014, which establishes a Lung Health Advisory Council to make recommendations to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care on lung health issues and requires the minister to develop and implement an Ontario Lung Health Action Plan with respect to research, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of lung disease; and

"Once debated at committee, to expedite Bill 41, Lung Health Act, 2014, through the committee stage and back to the Legislature for third and final reading; and to immediately call for a vote on Bill 41 and to seek royal assent immediately upon its passage."

I support this, sign it and send it to you via page Colleen.

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I just want to draw to the attention of all members that we are dealing with M213, second reading of Bill 213.

### HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT (CARELESS DRIVING), 2016

### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LE CODE DE LA ROUTE (CONDUITE IMPRUDENTE)

Ms. McMahon moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 213, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act with respect to careless driving causing death or bodily harm / Projet de loi 213, Loi modifiant le Code de la route en ce qui concerne la conduite imprudente causant la mort ou des blessures corporelles.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Pursuant to standing order 98, the member has 12 minutes for her presentation.

**Ms. Eleanor McMahon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm pleased to begin debate on Bill 213. In doing so, I want to recognize a number of colleagues, friends and family who have come to Queen's Park today in support of today's debate. They are my brother, Ed McMahon; Constable Hugh Smith from the Toronto Police Service; from the Ontario Provincial Police Association, Chris Hoffman; from the Police Association of Ontario, Stephen Reid and Bruce Chapman; Jamie

Stuckless, executive director of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, and Share the Road board member Ian Brisbin, a lawyer from Hamilton. Thank you all for being here.

Ten years ago this week, my life and the lives of many people dear to me changed forever when a careless driver struck and killed my husband, OPP Sergeant Greg Stobbart, a veteran police officer in his 25th year of service. Greg was killed while on a training ride in Milton. He was 44 years old and in the prime of his life.

As many of my honourable colleagues in this House know, Greg's death and his life's work as an OPP officer have been the impetus for the direction I've taken in my life over the past decade. It has shaped my approach to and my decisions regarding advocacy, and my decision to fight for changes to legislative constructs, enhanced infrastructure funding, and education and awareness for motorists and cyclists when it comes to sharing the road, all in the interest of road safety.

Our response to this tragic loss was, in 2008, making the case for legislative changes that would enhance road safety by providing front-line law enforcement with the tools they needed to reduce the number of motorists who continue to drive under suspension. This was in response to Greg's case but also to the estimated half-million suspended drivers in Ontario, with an estimated three quarters of these people continuing to drive despite their suspension. Greg's Law provided for enhanced penalties for motorists who drive under suspension, in the hopes of reducing repeat offenders and in the hopes of reducing the number of uninsured drivers and getting them off the road. It passed in 2009 and came into force in 2010.

In 2008, we started the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, a provincial cycling advocacy organization with a mandate to bring about legislative change in Ontario that would enhance road safety, empower municipalities to make their communities more bicycle-friendly, change the conversation, and enhance education and awareness of the importance of sharing the road, reminding people that whether you're a driver, a cyclist or a pedestrian, we all have responsibilities when we're on the road.

During my time at the coalition, I'm proud to say that, working together with many members of this House, we made tremendous progress for cyclists, and indeed all vulnerable road users. This progress included the first provincial infrastructure program for cycling, with \$25 million in dedicated funding for projects that are now being built in communities across Ontario. We drove major changes to the Highway Traffic Act, including a one-metre safe passing law, the second in Canada, as part of the most significant update to the Highway Traffic Act for cycling in our province's history, Bill 31, in 2015. A provincial investment in cycling education programs was another major and very recent step forward. All of these were recommendations of the 2012 Ontario coroner's review into cycling deaths—and I was honoured to sit as a member of that review. All of this is Greg's legacy.

While I'm tremendously proud of what has been accomplished, at the end of the day, like all of the 129

cyclists who were part of the coroner's death review, like the hundreds of Ontarians who die on our roads each year, Greg's death was preventable.

The driver who killed Greg had five previous convictions of driving with a suspended licence, two convictions of driving with no insurance, and had collected \$15,000 in traffic-related fines. His sentence: His licence was suspended again, and he received 100 hours of community service. And just 62 days after this man hit Greg, he hit someone else. One of the conclusions to be drawn from this is that, despite his actions, despite the fact that he killed someone as a result of his carelessness, he continued to drive without the kind of due care and attention which is the minimum standard expected of all of us and which the careless driving statute, section 130 of the Highway Traffic Act, which I hope to amend today, demands.

Tragically, Greg's story is not unique. Every year in Ontario, lives are taken because another individual made a bad choice. In 2015, in the city of Toronto alone, 64 people died in traffic fatalities—this is up from 35 in 2011 and 51 in 2014, so in six years the number of lives lost, all of them preventable, has nearly doubled—and of those, 38 were pedestrians and four were cyclists, meaning that 67% of those were vulnerable road users. I'm willing to bet, although statistics are not kept in this regard, that a good chunk of those led to charges of careless driving and to outcomes for all concerned—the victims, their families, the police officers laying the charge—that were less than satisfactory from the perspective of some kind of assurance that the penalties associated with the outcomes were sufficient.

Of course, when you lose someone you love, like I did, nothing is going to bring them back and nothing will feel sufficient. But of this I am sure: The current statute, which lacks specificity both in terms of the charge and the sentence provisions, is calling out for reform.

Carelessness is the cause of most deaths that result from vehicle-related accidents. By the year 2020, it is estimated that road traffic injuries will become the third-greatest contributor to the global burden of disease and injury. These kinds of injuries and fatalities are preventable. In fact, according to the 2012 coroner's report that I mentioned earlier, of the 129 deaths reviewed, 100% of them were preventable, because all drivers make choices, whether it's choosing to text and drive, choosing to get behind the wheel after a few beers or, instead, choosing to concentrate on the task at hand, focusing on the road and arriving at their destination safely.

A police officer friend of mine once said, "Sometimes they're just accidents, Eleanor." Fair enough. But if your poor choice results in injury or the death of another human being, if you are inattentive behind the wheel even for a moment, if your carelessness and disregard for others leads to these results, if Bill 213 passes, the penalties you will pay are significant. By contrast, the person who is the victim of your carelessness, who may be seriously injured, will face a life of difficult challenges, and so will their family. And if you kill them,

then the sentence that you will have imposed is a life sentence, as I know only too well.

As police officers know, it's unlikely that these types of collisions, including those causing death, will result in criminal charges and the stiffer penalties that come with federal statutes. Indeed, most will result in a traffic violation under the Highway Traffic Act. It's far too common for drivers who have caused the death of another human being to see penalties as simple as a fine of a few hundred dollars, demerit points or a suspended driver's licence. Worse still, as happens so often with traffic offences, a plea bargaining process ensues, with a lesser sentence often applied. If we provide officers with the tools they need to lay a charge that speaks to the behaviour of the motorist as well as the outcome, and if we provide the courts with greater specificity when it comes to sentencing options, with the full force of the highest penalties allowed under provincial statute, then we are sending a clear signal to all Ontarians that driving is a privilege and not a right, that driving carelessly is serious, and that lives matter, especially when the family of the victim serves a life sentence of grief.

For repeat offenders, the current penalties run the risk of continuing to have little deterrent effect. I've seen that first-hand.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, careless driving is one of the most serious offences. It is defined as driving without due care and attention. In order to charge a driver under the Criminal Code, there would need to be established an intent to kill or cause bodily harm, or the driver in question would have had to be so outrageously dangerous that the driver would have known that killing someone was a likely outcome.

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Our legal system requires proof beyond a reasonable doubt in order to convict someone of a criminal charge, and for good reason. It's an important pillar of our justice system. But in cases of careless driving that cause death, unfortunately that means that most of these drivers are charged under the Highway Traffic Act, where the driver's actions are under scrutiny, not the fact that an innocent person was seriously injured or killed.

Personal injury lawyer Patrick Brown, a colleague with whom I called for a review of cycling deaths by the Ontario coroner and with whom I served on that review, recently noted that of the cases studied in the review, charges were laid in only 30% of the cases, with 19% of them under the Highway Traffic Act and 11% under the Criminal Code. I'm not advocating that all motorists should be charged and penalized as criminals, but I do believe that we need to encourage safe driving and deter careless driving so that preventable deaths are just that—prevented.

There's clearly a gap between careless driving and the criminal offence of dangerous driving or criminal negligence. Bill 213 seeks to close that gap. Currently, under the Highway Traffic Act, the minimum fine for careless driving is \$400 and the maximum is \$2,000. Drivers could face up to six demerit points, a licence

suspension of up to two years, and up to six months in prison, although this is rarely, if ever, delivered as a sentence.

Indeed, a friend of mine, a member of the Toronto Police Service with 29 years of service, told me recently that in all his years on the job, most of them in traffic, with all of the careless driving charges he has laid, none of them has resulted in a jail sentence, despite the fact that people have died as a result of the carelessness of a motorist.

To him and to all the officers across Ontario who serve our province, who work so diligently to keep our roads safe every day, I say this: In Greg's memory and in memory of all those whose lives have been lost, for all the accident and collision reconstructionists, the guys and gals patrolling our roads and provincial highways, today's bill is for you.

Greg's frustration with the lack of specificity inherent in section 130 and his frustration at his inability to lay a charge which fit the offence was something I heard about very often.

Today, we are changing the conversation about what careless driving should mean. This bill aims to fill the gap between less and more severe offences, providing additional charging options to both law enforcement and our courts. It aims to recognize and provide a tool for collisions that result in serious injury or death by creating a separate offence of careless driving causing death or bodily harm. Bill 213, if passed, would increase penalties under this new category, making a clear distinction between careless driving and careless driving causing death or bodily harm. It will also give police officers more time to conduct an investigation, and collision reconstructionists the time they need to do these often painstaking investigations.

Under the proposed new category, fines would be a minimum of \$2,000 to a maximum of \$50,000. The driver could face a maximum of two years in prison, the maximum allowed under provincial statute, as opposed to the current maximum for careless driving, which is six months. Their driver's licence could be suspended for up to five years. Their sentencing options will include the requirement to complete a road safety or driver training course, as well.

Ultimately, the goal is to have penalties in place that discourage careless driving and encourage good choices behind the wheel. But we will also use this opportunity to help promote public awareness of the threat posed by motor vehicles in the hands of the wrong person. And finally, we will draw attention to the fact that when a motorist is careless and hits a cyclist or a pedestrian, the outcomes are much more significant.

With Bill 213, both our officers and our courts will have the opportunity to send that very clear signal that driving with due care and attention matters, arguably more so when it comes to our most vulnerable road users.

In closing, I want to thank all of my colleagues on all sides of the House for their support for road safety, for community safety, and, most of all, for their support for

cycling and all of our combined efforts to make sharing the road easier and safer for all Ontarians.

To my family, to my policing family, it is my privilege to table this law on your behalf.

And to Greg, wherever you are, I hope the skies are blue, the road ahead is clear, and that you are pedalling with all of the joy, the enthusiasm and the love of life that was so emblematic to everything that you were and that you meant to all of us. Ride on in the knowledge that we are working hard to make the roads safer in your name.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Michael Harris:** Thank you, Speaker, for the opportunity to address the member from Burlington's amendment to the Highway Traffic Act in regard to careless driving.

I know it is very emotional for her, and we're happy here that we have an opportunity to speak. It's not too often that we have an opportunity in this House to work through continued distractions, share common ground and bring all sides together for a common goal.

I think we can all agree there is no doubt that we, as legislators, need to address new and emerging safety concerns on our roadways, as this bill proposes, much as we need to address those who cause safety concerns for those around them due to carelessness. The truth is that there are shared goals among all of us here for the protection of public safety for Ontarians using our roads, whether they are on two wheels, four or more. As such, I feel that the Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Careless Driving) offers one of these rare opportunities to encapsulate the work of government, opposition and our diligent safety partners in the effort to protect motorists, pedestrians and cyclists alike as we address carelessness on our roads.

We've heard the government member's proposal to amend the Highway Traffic Act to increase the penalties for careless driving causing death or bodily harm. An offender, once convicted, would be liable to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$50,000. There are also imprisonment increases to a term of not more than two years. If those do not work as enough of a deterrent to reckless behaviour on our roads, the bill also proposes that the offender may have their licence suspended for not more than five years, may be ordered to complete a road safety or driver training course, and the limitation period in respect of careless driving causing death or bodily harm will be increased to two years.

Although I mentioned this bill acting as a deterrent to reckless behaviour—which I'm sure we all hope it will, if passed—it will also allow those in law enforcement to be able to see justice handed out for crimes, instead of seeing offenders simply walking away unscathed, often-times with their licence in tow, because the penalties, as they currently stand, do not include imprisonment or the loss of a licence. Under the Highway Traffic Act, this sort of infraction, even if it causes a loss of life, carries a maximum penalty of just \$500.

Unfortunately, the member opposite knows this tragedy far too intimately, as she has shared so passionately

with us today. MPP McMahon lost her husband, OPP Sergeant Greg Stobbart, as the result of the recklessness of a man who had five convictions for driving while under licence suspension, four convictions for driving with no insurance and \$15,000 in unpaid fines; two months later, he was involved in another at-fault collision—all of this while driving commercially. This man only received 100 hours of community service as a penalty, whereas the MPP from Burlington is facing a life sentence without her partner. This, quite frankly, is a shortfall of our own justice system.

This type of story is something we hear far too often. In my region, a young woman was convicted of dangerous driving causing bodily harm for suddenly veering across several lanes of the Conestoga Parkway in a doomed bid to make her exit. She had been speeding and aggressively passing other vehicles as she approached the off-ramp. The reckless manoeuvre by the young woman on the afternoon of August 31, 2012, caused a devastating three-car crash that sent seven people to hospital, including Robert Jacques, 46, who spent six weeks in a coma and suffered life-changing injuries after her car landed on his roof, off the flyover ramp on southbound Highway 8.

The judge sentenced her to six months for causing the car crash and imposed a 10-year driving prohibition, the maximum allowed, based upon her driving history and her behaviour on the road that day.

Although we hear these stories far too often, we do not often hear of convictions for dangerous driving. As those in law enforcement know, it is quite difficult to convict, as you have to prove either intent or recklessness.

Because of this, I commend the member from Burlington for being creative within the legislative tools we are afforded in this province to create stricter penalties for those who far too often slip through the cracks and loopholes in the justice system, and for sharing her heartbreaking story with us today in the hope that history does not repeat itself and we can continue to protect the lives of those on our roads.

Thank you for your time today, Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Wayne Gates:** I certainly am honoured to rise today on Bill 213, careless driving. As always, it's a pleasure to speak in this House and represent the constituents of Niagara Falls. I'm speaking today as the New Democratic Party critic for transportation, but also as someone who continues to do everything in their power to fight for safety on our roads and to ensure that our families are safe. I'm committed to ensuring that the roads in this province are safe and the regulations are fair across the board.

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The bill we have before us today, Bill 213, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act with respect to careless driving causing death or bodily harm, is an important one. It's important because it helps to protect the most vulnerable members of our society who use our roads and

because it helps ensure that in cases of careless driving that cause death or serious injury, the punishment will fit the crime. Those are two courses of action that are important for us to take.

Vulnerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists, users of mobility devices and even motorcyclists face the highest risk of death or serious injury on our roads. A collision between a car and a cyclist or a pedestrian is vastly more likely to result in serious injury or death to the cyclist or pedestrian than a collision between cars.

Far too often when collisions occur between a car and a vulnerable road user, the punishment for the driver of that car does not fit the crime. This has led to groups such as Cycle Toronto, the Bikers Rights Organization and the United Senior Citizens of Ontario to call for stricter penalties when a collision occurs between a car and a road user leading to death or serious injury, and I stand with them in this call.

The Ontario NDP understands the need to protect vulnerable road users, and we support efforts to do that. Unfortunately, the bill we have before us today falls short of the standards set in the calls by the organizations I have mentioned.

One of the main changes that these organizations call for is that motorists who cause injury or death should be required to attend court at the time of sentencing and hear victim statements. The simple fact that someone who causes injury or death doesn't even have to go to court when they have their sentencing to hear from those whom they impacted is, quite frankly, I believe, ridiculous. This needs to change.

The other area where this bill falls short is one that left me very confused. This bill would only mandate harsher punishment for those who cause death or serious injury as a result of careless driving. That means that in the 2011 case of a driver who made an illegal left turn and killed a pedestrian in Brampton, they would still only face the \$500 fine that was levied against him at the time. That means that in the 2002 case that I spoke of before, Wanda and David Harrison, who were killed while out riding their motorcycle by a driver making an illegal left turn, the driver again would only face the \$500 fine that was levied against him at that time. That simply is not right. Again, I've raised this. The families and friends of the Harrisons and of the Brampton pedestrian will tell you it wasn't right then, and if we're going to change the law, we need to get it right now.

Here is where my confusion came in. Back in December of last year, I introduced a private member's bill to this House called Bill 154, An Act to amend the Highway Traffic Act to create an offence of contravention causing death or serious bodily harm. The bill passed second reading unanimously and it has sat waiting to be heard at committee ever since.

Bill 154 would have added a new section to the Highway Traffic Act that created an offence related to collisions causing death or serious injury. It would have ensured that any driver who causes death or serious injury, whether careless driving was involved or not, would face a punishment more consistent with the crime.

There are some differences between my bill and the one we see before us today. The truth is, those differences are small. Clearly, the member from Burlington—my colleague—and I have the same goals in mind. I would have been happy to work with her and with her government to amend the bill. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. I feel absolutely terrible about what happened to her husband, who was killed.

I'm going to tell a story, because I think it's important to tell stories like this—the one about the one that survives and what that does to their family and what that does to their kids.

One day, a woman was coming down Lundy's Lane. A vice-principal, early forties. A car pulls out and crosses the line and hits that woman head-on. It didn't kill her, but her injuries were to her shoulder, her ribs, her femur—her foot was a club foot.

That was 12 years ago. That woman used to play volleyball, used to go on walks, she used to ride her bike. She used to go for a walk with her daughter or her husband. The drunk driver who hit her had a minor knee injury, although he cried like a little baby when it happened. He's up and about, got on with his life.

The woman I'm talking about can no longer play volleyball, can no longer play slo-pitch, can no longer go for long walks with her daughter or her husband, and every step she takes today hurts. But even from that accident, that strong woman that she was, she made sure she got back up on her feet, even though she was in pain every day, and was able to go from being a vice-principal to a principal, even though every step she took in that school hurt.

When we talk about these types of bills, I think collectively we want the same thing. I believe my friends and my colleagues the Conservatives want the same thing: We want to get the bill right. We don't want to have it where somebody can drive without a licence for four or five times, or be charged with impaired driving two or three times, and get off with a three-month sentence, in most cases a suspended sentence. We don't want that. I don't think anybody here wants that. We want to make sure we get the bill right and, just like you—you want to get it for your husband—to make sure that no husband or wife gets killed on our highways by somebody driving carelessly or somebody driving drunk.

I'm going to tell you, my colleague from Burlington—because I can't say her name—I want the same thing, because that woman that got up off that car that afternoon at 5 o'clock, where her teachers and her colleagues at the other school had to take care of her daughter, and they had to call her husband, who was in bargaining, that woman was my wife, the strongest and the smartest woman I know.

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But if we're going to make bills like this to make changes, we have to make those changes so that person knows that if they do this, there's going to be a crime—they're going to pay the punishment—and to send a message to other people that it isn't right to drive

carelessly, it isn't right to drive drunk, and it certainly isn't right to drive drunk at 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

I know I took a little bit of my colleague's time, but I support your bill. I think we can do a little better. I think we should talk about it and find out how we get this bill right for your husband, for my wife and for all the other residents of the province of Ontario. So thanks for giving me a few minutes of your time.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mrs. Cristina Martins:** I rise today to address the private member's bill proposed by the member from Burlington to amend the Highway Traffic Act to further address careless driving.

The proposed bill will amend the Highway Traffic Act to increase the penalties for careless driving causing death or bodily harm. The act will also increase the limitation period for those charged with careless driving causing death or bodily harm to make prosecutors better equipped to charge careless drivers.

It is 2016, and our roads are more multi-modal than ever before. People commute to work and travel around their communities using a multitude of vehicles and transportation methods. Year after year in my riding of Davenport, more people are walking or riding bicycles, rather than cars, to move around the community and travel from place to place. In my Davenport constituency office, people consistently have questions about what our government has been doing to make roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians in Davenport. Constituents in my riding truly embrace cycling as an essential part of Toronto's sustainable transportation network and are proud that the needs of people who cycle are now taken into account in infrastructure. Although cyclists are involved in planning infrastructure, there is still more to do to ensure that those who share the roads with cars and trucks are protected. As more bicycles share the road, the potential likelihood for fatalities and serious injury related to collisions between cyclists and automobiles may also rise.

Many municipalities across Ontario recognize that multiple modes of transportation are accepted on roads, but through the proposed amendments, all drivers in Ontario will have to be aware of all those using the road.

In 2013, there were a total of 63 traffic fatalities resulting from collisions between cyclists and automobiles. This was an increase of 43% over 2012. Pedestrians and cyclists have continued to be killed or seriously injured on the roads in Ontario and, sadly, in my own riding of Davenport.

Carelessness is the primary cause of most collisions between cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles. Studies show that, by the year 2020, it is estimated that road traffic injuries will become the third-largest contributor to the global burden of disease and injury. But unlike any disease, these kinds of injuries and fatalities are preventable. We all know that if you choose to drive drunk or to text and drive, it is very dangerous, and that injuries and fatalities caused by careless driving or bad choices are preventable.

As you know, Speaker, our government is committed to making multi-modal transportation safer in Ontario, and it is our duty as a government to ensure that all Ontarians who travel on our roads are safe. These amendments will address this by using the law to help promote the need for public awareness.

While we all have a responsibility to share the road, these amendments are important as they will implicitly give motorists more responsibility in collisions, as they can cause much more harm and damage if colliding with a cyclist or other means of transportation. Specifically, the proposed amendments will fill the penalty gap between careless driving and criminal negligence to provide more options for prosecutors to charge those who get into collisions that result in serious injury or death as a result of careless driving. This will mean that drivers will be held to a higher standard of care when operating a vehicle in a multi-modal environment. Most importantly for my community in Davenport, the amendments will provide an opportunity to table further legislation and draw attention to cyclist and pedestrian fatalities. It is time to further emphasize the responsibility of motorists to drive with due care and attention, because careless driving can have a more significant result in these cases, as cyclists and pedestrians are vulnerable road users.

As I've already stated, strengthening protections for cyclists while enhancing the ability for prosecutors to charge careless drivers who cause serious injury or death are part of this government's plan to make Ontario's roads safer.

Once passed, I will be pleased to bring this legislation, aimed at protecting vulnerable road users, to Davenport, as my constituents and all Ontarians deserve to be better protected when using the road.

We can all look towards a year when bicycles, pedestrians and vehicles share the road. This legislation is a true step towards this goal, and one that I fully support.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Lorne Coe:** I rise to speak in support of the Highway Traffic Amendment Act, and thank the member from Burlington for bringing forward this legislation and for her passionate comments earlier.

I've often felt that penalties for vehicle offences should be more than simply a cost of driving. Motor vehicles are effectively deadly weapons, and unless we can find the means to truly relate the penalties for driving offences to the crimes themselves, then we're not doing an effective job.

We now have taken a better approach in penalizing drivers for distracted driving offences and driving while under suspension. I think we should also do a better job of bringing the penalties for careless driving to the point where they truly do act as a deterrent. The penalty has to match the crime.

All of us have to understand that if, as a result of carelessness, an accident results and a life is lost, then there will be serious consequences. If we choose to eat while driving, drink hot coffee, use mobile devices or are

tuning the radio while not looking at the roadway, the penalty may be vastly more than simply those that result from distracted driving.

Distraction that leads to an accident attributable to the careless operation of a vehicle may now, under the proposed legislation, bring with it a much larger hammer. Under the proposed legislation, a person convicted of careless driving causing death would be liable to a fine of not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$50,000 and he or she could be imprisoned for a term of not more than two years and have their licence suspended for up to five years. Currently, the penalties do not include imprisonment or the loss of a licence.

Under the Highway Traffic Act, this type of infraction, even if it causes the loss of a life, carries a current maximum penalty of \$500.

Madam Speaker, driving is a privilege, not a right. Hopefully, this legislation will be a powerful deterrent to ensure safety for everyone on the road. I look forward to supporting it.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. John Vanthof:** It's always an honour to be able to rise in this House, and today speak on Bill 213.

Is that the right time?

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** No, it's the wrong time. We're burning his time.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** I believe I'm using someone else's time, Speaker.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** He's using the Conservative time.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** The Clerk will reset the clock.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** Okay. Anyway, it's always an honour to rise in this House. I'd like to commend the member from Burlington and also the member from Niagara Falls. One of the greatest things about this House is people who use their own life stories for the betterment of others. Often, life stories are tragic, but that is the way that we make this province better. No matter which bill it is or how, on issues like this, we need to work together for the betterment of all, so that cases like what happened to the member's husband—and to the member's wife—and to many other family members of people across this province—we need to work together to make sure that where we identify issues like this, we can all work together and fix them.

I fully support this bill. It's a step in the right direction. It's a step that we've all got to take. Thank you for bringing it forward.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** I'm very honoured to be able to stand today and spend a few minutes talking in support of Bill 213.

It's a very emotional bill, as the member for Burlington demonstrated earlier on, talking about the loss of her husband and the careless driving that ensued before he was struck.

I will make an observation that I don't know what's happening with the world. Maybe I'm just getting older, Madam Speaker, but there seems to be less and less courtesy being shown on Ontario's roads, more and more careless driving, and in fact, in spite of all of the work that governments, police forces and groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving have done, we continue to see a sharp increase in the number of impaired drivers and drivers who are climbing behind the wheel when they're drunk. I know we're not addressing that here, but what we are addressing through this bill—and it's a great bill—once again is reminding drivers that carelessness is the root that kills most people in vehicle-related accidents.

I applaud and hope that this bill brings about some change, that it defines the difference between less and more severe offences, because careless driving seems to be, in my mind, in my layperson's mind, such a catch-all for so many things. I am pleased to see that it would set careless driving causing death at a maximum of \$50,000, up from \$2,000; that imprisonment could be as long as two years; that a licence suspension would be as long as five years. I think this just might get people's attention.

That brings me to the point that, yes, it is important to increase fines and make the differentiation between less and more severe, but I think what this bill will really do is get people talking and get our attention as drivers. All of us need that every now and then, to be reminded of the privilege that it is to drive. For that reason alone, the conversation that this will spark, the reminder that it will make, I wholeheartedly look forward to voting in favour of this bill.

I'll leave it there, Madam Speaker. I really appreciate the member from Burlington for introducing this bill and thank her.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** I'm very pleased to rise today and of course speak in support with the rest of my colleagues on the Highway Traffic Amendment Act (Careless Driving), 2016.

I just want to recap a little bit that this is to make sure that the fines are a fitting punishment for distracted driving and careless driving. They want to ensure that the fine—what they're asking with this bill—is a minimum of \$2,000 and a \$50,000 maximum fine.

We want to have this come to committee, to have the real discussion with the stakeholders in how to really get the message out. I think it has to be more than fines. We really need to educate people. Cars are getting more and more toys, more apps. They're getting cars now with WiFi. These are all adding to distracted driving.

We're also seeing more electric cars. I don't believe anybody has brought this up, but electric cars are very quiet and sneak up on people, including not just pedestrians but other drivers, and, as we heard previously, motorcycles and cyclists. That's something that concerns me. I like the fact that electric cars are quiet, and I have to say that many of us have had times where we've had a

motorcycle weaving in and out, and the only reason we knew it was there was because of the noise it made.

I'm also concerned that when we have collisions on our roads, there are secondary and tertiary accidents as a result because people are rubbernecking, looking at accidents in the other direction. It's very important to me that we find a way to address the lack of productivity, yes, but also the danger of our highways being blocked.

I want to remind everybody that my bill had overwhelming support at committee, Bill 181, Reducing Gridlock and Improving Traffic Flow Act, and it hasn't been brought forward for third reading in the House. I would ask my colleagues on all sides of the floor to please work with me to get a better response to clearing our roads, our highways, of accidents. I think that's one of the issues.

I want to also mention that June 6 is a sad anniversary for my colleague from Burlington. That was just a few days ago this week, and I'm sure that's a hard day for her. I know she was working that day. That was the day her husband, former OPP Sergeant Greg Stobbart, lost his life by a careless driver, and the this wasn't just any careless driver. This was somebody who was driving commercially yet had five convictions for driving under suspension, four for driving with no insurance and \$15,000 in unpaid fines, and even after this horrific fatal accident, he was on the roads again driving. I think that technology is wonderful, but it does add to careless driving. Maybe there is technology that can be used so we can ensure that people who just don't care—they have no thought, no regard for anybody but themselves—somehow we can track where they're working and whether or not they are driving. That's going to be a very tough one to address, because of privacy rules.

I just want to mention that my dad is a really avid cyclist. His name is Alex. When I visit him in Florida—he refuses to have a car down there—we do everything by bike. Until you're actually trying to run errands on a bike and not just sticking to bike paths, it's a very different experience. I'm more of a "put the bike on the back of the car"—our colleague from Parry Sound—Muskoka had a recent bill about allowing bike racks to block licence plates. I'm more of a recreational bike rider, but until you have to go to the grocery store and deal with those parking lots and carts and very distracted people—

**Mr. Tim Hudak:** What does he do with his beer?

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** What does he do? He manages just fine. We've got baskets, and we've got the knapsacks. We do it all.

He's 87 years old and, yes, he's in great shape. But I do worry about him out on the roads with careless drivers and high-speed cars.

I hope we can all work together to add even more amendments to make this bill even more far-reaching and address many more issues on our roads, because that's the problem here.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** It's always a privilege to stand in this House on behalf of my constituents in Cambridge to speak to legislation. But it's indeed an honour today to stand in support of Bill 213, MPP McMahon's private member's bill—and, I'm going to say, my very dear friend.

I know that we're hearing a lot of positive comments around the chamber this afternoon in support of this bill, and it's music to my ears, not only because the MPP from Burlington is my good friend, but also because of my role in the government. I'm the parliamentary assistant for the Ministry of Transportation, and the #CycleON strategy for cycling in Ontario is my file. These amendments to the Highway Traffic Act that are being looked at certainly speak to my role and what I have been doing for the last couple of years. I know that Ontario has among the safest roads in North America. As a matter of fact, we're number one or number two in North America, year over year, and that's quite significant.

But there is certainly much more that needs to be done. Not until there are no cyclists and pedestrians hit on our roads, and no injuries and accidents caused, will our work be done. But we've always got more work to do. We also very much welcome any proposals to ensure that all road users are safer in our province.

Amending the Highway Traffic Act around careless drivers will help to cast that wider net and make roads safer for all road users. We often talk about vehicles, truck drivers, pedestrians and cyclists, but also those individuals who use mobility devices on our sidewalks and need to cross the roads in wheelchairs, walkers and scooters. This legislation would certainly assist in bringing more awareness to ensure that all road users—susceptible road users—are going to be safer on our roads.

I know that driving on Ontario roads without the appropriate level of care and attention is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. In order to ensure that Ontarians are getting that message, I was very proud to support Bill 31, the Making Ontario's Roads Safer Act, go through the Legislature and pass on June 2, 2015. In it, we started to tackle distracted driving, an area where more and more accidents are being caused. It is indeed starting to cause more deaths and destruction on our highways than alcohol or impaired driving offences. This is one thing that I am very proud we have passed. We've also passed a law to ensure that there is a one-metre safe passing rule for cyclists. We have ensured that dooring carries bigger fines for hitting cyclists.

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I also wanted to point out that in the Safer Roads for a Safer Ontario Act, 2007, we had passed a law against stunt driving and street racing. Driving too closely to pedestrians is included in the definition of stunt.

I know that everything else has been said about why we need to pass this forward, and that the increased penalties for careless driving are supported by all. I was present at the press conference, and I know our road safety partners who were on hand and in the gallery

today certainly support those broader penalties so that we can do that.

I can't say enough about the burden of disease and injury. As a long-time nurse, I know that some injuries never heal. There are many stories of people who have never been able to get beyond their injuries.

I want to just give a shout-out to MPP McMahon, to her family who are here with her today and to her former partner Greg Stobbart's family, many of whom I met on Greg's Ride. I feel very strongly that we owe you a debt of gratitude. Thank you very much for sharing this story and ensuring that you can support this legislation to make sure all road users are protected.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I will return back to the member from Burlington to wrap up.

**Ms. Eleanor McMahon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. By the way, that has a lovely tone to it, I have to say: "Madam Speaker."

I want to give special thanks to all members of the House today for their support and their encouragement, in particular the MPP for Kitchener-Conestoga; the MPP for Niagara Falls; the MPP for Davenport; for Whitby-Oshawa, thank you—Greg was a police officer in Whitby and he served at the Whitby detachment, so I have a special place in my heart for Whitby; the MPP for Timiskaming-Cochrane for his kind remarks and his very appropriate statements, I thought, about what makes this private members' hour great and what makes our commitment to service great; and right back to the member for Niagara Falls for sharing his very personal and poignant story. I did not know that story, and I commend you and thank you for sharing it with the House today. It's very, very brave of you to do so and it's very, very sad. I'm sorry.

To the MPP for Newmarket-Aurora talking about the privilege that it is to drive and reminding us of that important fact; to the MPP for Thornhill for talking about her 87-year-old dad who rides his bicycle—at 87 years young, I think that's why cycling is a good thing to do. It keeps us young and it's a good, life-long way to exercise—good on the joints, good for him, good for the environment. Give your dad a shout-out for me. That's terrific.

To my friend the member from Cambridge for her work on the #CycleON strategy and for the work that we've done together around road safety: It continues to be a pleasure. I thank you for your comments.

To everyone, and in particular to the member from Niagara Falls for your comments about what we need to do to make the bill better—I heartily agree. I look forward to that conversation. If it reassures you at all, I do look forward to talking to you about the Provincial Offences Act in particular and how we can amend it, because that's what we need to do, to sort out that piece around compelling people to appear. I looked at that in drawing this bill together, and it was made clear to me that that's what we need to do, so I look forward to that.

Finally, to my family and to my policing family, I want to thank you again. This is for you. You've been

there for me right from the beginning. I appreciate all of your kind support and I thank you for everything you do every day to keep our roads safe.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** We will deal with the vote on this particular bill at the end of private members' public business.

DOOR-TO-DOOR  
SALES PROHIBITION ACT, 2016  
LOI DE 2016 INTERDISANT LA VENTE  
DE PORTE-À-PORTE

Mr. Baker moved second reading of the following bill:  
Bill 193, An Act to prohibit door-to-door sales of certain products / Projet de loi 193, Loi interdisant la vente de porte-à-porte de certains produits.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Pursuant to standing order 98, the member has 12 minutes for his presentation.

**Mr. Yvan Baker:** I'm honoured to rise in the Legislature today to speak about my private member's bill, Bill 193, An Act to prohibit door-to-door sales of certain products.

Before I begin, I'd just like to take a moment to recognize a few of the people who are here today in support of the bill. I'm proud to have a number of constituents of mine from Etobicoke Centre with me here today. They're members of my seniors' advisory group. They're actually the ones who brought this issue forward and inspired me to work on this issue. I'm thrilled to have them. We have with us a few folks: Harvey Pellegrini and Marion Feltus as well. Thank you for joining us today.

The bill is also the culmination of months of consultation and work with a range of organizations, particularly those advocating for consumers and seniors. We have several representatives I wanted to introduce: Ken Whitehurst, who is the executive director of the Consumers Council of Canada; Dolly Gerrior, who is a member of the council's board of directors—thank you, Dolly, for coming; and Adina Lebo, who is the chair of CARP Toronto. Thank you for coming, and thank you for all your support as well.

This bill got a lot of media coverage, I think in part because it concerns so many Ontarians across the province. There are a number of members of the media whom I could thank, but one of them is here today. I just want to acknowledge Becky Coles, a producer with Newstalk 1010. Thank you, Becky.

I also want to acknowledge a couple of members of my family who are here at important moments like this. Both my mom and dad are here: Myroslava Oleksiuk and Donald Baker. Thank you both for being here.

Madam Speaker, as you know, to put together a bill like this, you need a fantastic team. I have a fantastic group of staff that have worked on this bill: Sinéad Anderson, who is my EA; Olivia Labonté, my OLIP intern; and Aashish Oberoi, my former LA. They did fantastic work on this. I'd also like to thank members of

all caucuses who advised me and who have given me their support. Thank you very much.

Every month, I hold a seniors' advisory group meeting to hear from seniors in my community about their concerns. At the initial meetings after I got elected, I heard what you would expect to hear about. I heard about health care issues and I heard about transportation issues. But one of the issues I heard the most about was consumer protection. Specifically, I heard a lot about door-to-door sales.

One constituent in particular once said to me, "All the issues you've discussed are important, but you need to do something for the people who don't feel secure answering the doors to their own homes, who are being duped out of their limited savings." I started to hear story after story from seniors and other constituents who had been taken advantage of by coercive and misleading salespeople right on their own doorsteps, right in their own homes.

There's one story in particular that really rang out, and I want to share this with the members of the Legislature today. One day, a woman—she is a member of my seniors' advisory group—had a knock at the door. She opened the door, and there was a man in an orange jacket. She looked out beyond him onto the street, and she could see other people in orange jackets knocking at the doors of some of her neighbours.

The gentleman said that he was with the energy company and that data showed that energy use was too high in the neighbourhood, and he needed to inspect her furnace because the furnace could be out of compliance. He asked to inspect her furnace; she of course complied. He inspected the furnace and said it was out of compliance, but he had a solution for her. He said that if she paid \$129 a month right away and signed on the dotted line right there, he could get the furnace replaced very, very quickly and that, as it so happened, the government of Ontario was offering a rebate of \$1,300 for anyone who signed right away to get a new furnace. She agreed to this.

Afterwards, she realized that her previous furnace actually worked just fine and that she shouldn't have signed this contract. So the day after, she called the company, as she's allowed to do under law, under the cooling-off period, and asked to cancel the contract. As she was on the phone trying to cancel, they wouldn't allow her to cancel, and the installers came to install the new furnace. They took her perfectly fine furnace away and they replaced it with a new one, and she started getting billed \$129 a month. She never got the rebate, of course. Even though she was told that she would be able to save on her energy bill so much to make up for the \$129, that of course never happened.

When she complained and complained and complained, the company eventually said to her, "Well, we could give you a deal. You could buy the furnace we just installed for \$9,000." The furnace that replaced a furnace that was perfectly fine and worked fine, she could pay \$9,000 for to keep. That was the deal the company offered her.

This is all too common. This is just one example of the stories I've heard and I know other members have heard.

I decided that I had to do something to end this predatory practice, so in March I started to consult with constituents and with organizations like those represented here. I started to look at the root causes of the problem, and what I learned is that Ontarians continue to receive unwanted marketers at their door who use misleading, aggressive and high-pressure sales tactics to entice people into bad contracts that take advantage of consumers. Under the guise of saving consumers money, many dishonest marketers dupe consumers into contracts that are more expensive than they should be, have harsh cancellation fees or provide inferior products and services that don't work at all, or certainly don't work as advertised.

The problem is particularly concentrated in the sale and lease of air conditioners, water heaters, furnaces and water treatment devices. These four products alone cost consumers who reported their experiences to the government of Ontario \$3.2 million in 2015. Those are only the people who raised their concerns with the government; the vast majority of people don't. So we can imagine that people are being duped out of millions and millions of dollars every single year across our province.

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A good portion of those talked about misrepresentation. Others brought up issues such as partial or incomplete delivery of goods and services, billing disputes, difficulty in cancelling contracts—like the story I just told you. These are just examples of the challenges people have faced across Ontario.

While this is an issue that touches people of all ages and all backgrounds, it's alarming to me to see how often door-to-door salespeople who use these tactics target people who are the most vulnerable. Seniors are misled. Those with serious health issues are taken advantage of. I had somebody at the press conference, when I introduced this bill, talk about her mother, who has Alzheimer's, who was duped into a contract, and the company refused to cancel and continued to charge her. Many others are locked into contracts with no way out.

To me, it is beyond reprehensible that there are people, organizations and businesses out there who make a living and who have a business model based on taking advantage of the most vulnerable people in our society. It has to stop, and that is why I introduced Bill 193. If passed, the bill would ban the sale, lease or rental of air conditioners, water heaters, furnaces and water treatment devices at a person's home. It would also allow the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to add products to this list if necessary.

I selected these products very carefully and very deliberately because these are the ones that have been prone to those aggressive, misleading and coercive tactics that I was talking about and the ones we've received the most complaints about.

If a contract is signed, under this bill what would happen is that it would be immediately void. But it was

important to me that there be real consequences for those who don't comply, for companies that continue to try to sell people these products. I believe that we need to send a strong message that this practice is unacceptable and needs to stop. Stiff penalties would be put in place for offenders who violate this ban, who violate the bill. Individual salespeople who violate the ban could be fined up to \$2,000, for instance, and organizations caught breaking the ban would be subject to harsh penalties of up to \$25,000. Again, we need to dissuade companies from pursuing these misleading and coercive practices.

In addition to the contract being voided, the consumer would be entitled to any money paid under the contract as well as the return or replacement of any product taken under the contract, so the consumer would not be out of pocket.

Finally, if the company refused to abide by all of these requirements—did not pay the consumer back their money and did not replace the product that was working—the consumer would have the option to take the company to court and, if successful—if the judge ruled in the consumer's favour—they would be entitled to receive double the amount owed plus legal fees. Too many companies are too eager to allow the consumer to go to court with them because they have the means to take them to court, and consumers are reluctant to do so. The goal here is to dissuade offending companies from doing just that.

I also think it's important to strike the right balance. I come from a business background. We want to protect Ontarians from coercive sales tactics, but we also want to ensure consumers have choice, that small businesses are still able to thrive and that we, of course, do not limit the activities of charities or not-for-profit organizations.

Let me be very clear: This does not impede charities; it does not impede community groups; it doesn't impede people like the Girl Guides, who come and sell cookies at your door, or the local boy or girl who wants to deliver the paper to your door. We're talking about only four product categories where we know there are consistently coercive practices being used. This bill, to me, strikes the right balance.

I'm pleased to note that I've received support from all corners of the province. First of all, I have to tell you that when we introduced the bill, my constituency office got hundreds of calls from ridings across this province. I bet I got a call from every riding across Ontario in my constituency office.

I'm also pleased that I had the support of a number of key groups, including the Canadian Association of Retired Persons, known as CARP, who is represented here today; the Public Interest Advocacy Centre; and the Consumers Council of Canada, who is also represented here today. I thank you for your advocacy, I thank you for your input and I thank you for your support.

I'm also pleased to note that a number of municipalities have passed motions supporting the bill and urging a provincial ban on door-to-door sales of products in the home services sector. They include—and this is not an

exhaustive list—the cities of Brampton, Hamilton, Markham, Mississauga, Oshawa and Pickering, the townships of North Dundas and Wellington North and the city of Toronto, amongst others. To me, this reflects the fact this is a concern to people north to south and east to west across Ontario. It's not just an urban problem; it's not just a suburban problem; it's not just a rural problem; it's a problem across Ontario.

This issue has been covered widely by the media. I alluded to that earlier. I think this highlights again that it's an issue that concerns people across the province. It's not just media in Toronto that covered this. It's not just NewsTalk 1010 or CBC radio that I talked about earlier. It's Global News. It's CP24. It's the Etobicoke Guardian. It's Metro News. It's the Caledon Enterprise. It's the Newmarket Era. It's the Mississauga News. It's the Oshawa Express. And I could go on and on.

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** The Aurora Banner.

**Mr. Yvan Baker:** The Aurora Banner. Thank you very much, the member from Newmarket–Aurora.

This is a reflection of the fact that this is a concern to many.

Madam Speaker, I had wonderful support from an MPP who you know well—Soo Wong—who provided me with this: “Finally, we have a bill that will provide further protection of Ontarians, especially the vulnerable seniors who are regularly harassed and pressured into signing a contract that they don't comprehend. The elimination of this type of sale will provide some security and protection of all Ontarians. In my riding of Scarborough–Agincourt, I received at least one complaint a week on this type of unethical sale. The salesperson targets Chinese residents, especially the frail seniors, into signing a contract they don't understand. Current law prevents companies from activating the contract prior to the cooling-off period. I heard cases in my riding where the overzealous employee removed both furnace and air conditioner prior to the cooling-off period.” This is just one example of many MPPs who have spoken up on this issue in support.

Consumers have spoken, advocacy groups have spoken, municipalities have spoken and MPPs have spoken. It's time to take action.

I started my remarks by sharing that I was inspired by my seniors' advisory group, by seniors in my community who raised this issue with me. I have heard from too many seniors, too many constituents of all ages who have been taken advantage of by coercive and misleading salespeople right at their own doorstep, right in their own home. I know we've all heard those stories.

It is beyond reprehensible to me that some organizations make a living, have a business model that's based on taking advantage of vulnerable people. We have to take action to protect Ontarians and end these predatory practices. I ask all members of this House for their support. The seniors in my community and the constituents and consumers across Ontario deserve no less.

*Applause.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate? The member for Niagara West–Glanbrook.

**Mr. Tim Hudak:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and for all that applause from my colleagues.

Recently, a 26-year-old autistic man purchased \$1,100 worth of cosmetics in the Pen Centre in Niagara, where I am from, from a retail store. The autistic man was informed that he had bad bags under his eyes and had sensitive skin. The store clerks, who I'm sure got commission from this, asked the man to sign a piece of paper stating that he had bought the product of his own accord and understood the sale to be final.

I bring this case up because it's one example of how pressure tactics across the retail environment, whether brick and glass buildings or door-to-door, can at times attract unscrupulous salespeople who follow bad business practices. But the member's bill doesn't cover this area, nor does it cover Internet sales. I'd say, Speaker, if we were to ban every type of sale or business transaction that had an unscrupulous salesperson, not a single product or service could be bought or sold in the province.

I commend the member for his ambition. It's certainly a very ambitious bill, but in my view, it goes too far. We have to be careful in the use of legislative power to eliminate somebody's livelihood or business altogether. Government is a sledgehammer. It is a blunt-force weapon, and I think you have to be careful when you wield it.

Look, I'm spoiled. I live out in the country. My drive is 500 metres long. I've had two door-to-door visits in my time there. One was a councillor running for mayor, Joanne Hamilton, and because she made that one-kilometre trip, I voted for her. The other was Jehovah's Witnesses, so I joined the faith. I'll deliver literature to all your desks a bit later on. I'm kidding about that one, Madam Speaker. I didn't join the faith, but I was impressed by their tenacity.

I am concerned that this bill and the member's rhetoric portrays seniors as entirely vulnerable individuals who are unable to do the research etc. for themselves, to say a simple "No, thank you." I see seniors in a much more empowered, positive and stronger light than the member's comments portray.

Let's not forget that direct selling is a massive business. It's \$2 billion every year. Ontario accounts for 38% of that \$2 billion here in our province. An outright, across-the-board ban on these services—the member would allow that through regulation, including night sales or, to the point of ridiculousness, Girl Guide cookies—maybe the mint ones, not the chocolate and vanilla.

You do give the power of regulation to the minister to ban any kind of door-to-door sales. Don't shake your head. It's in the bill, and you said that during your speech. Your regulatory authority gives to—any good or service to be banned by the minister without coming back to the Legislature for debate. I think that is far too aggressive and unwise.

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Let me give you an example. Kinetico is a Canadian company that sells home water treatment systems. It re-

quires a professional to go into a consumer's home, usually invited to an agreed-to meeting. The home's plumbing must be inspected, the home owner is educated on how the product will function and then a deal is forged, or not. The member's bill would ban that type of service—a legitimate, successful company that's quite popular in our province.

I'm a proud Costco member. If you walk into Costco and you walk out, on both sides of the aisle as you leave—picture this in your mind—there's a whole range of Costco services, which then come to your house and fix your deck, change your plumbing or some of the things mentioned in this bill, like heat-our-water systems. The member would ban those in their entirety as well, through regulation or in total.

Your bill's language, I'll tell you, is very wide open and, I think, quite dangerous—anything that is part of "sell, lease, rent or offer to sell, lease or rent a product listed in subsection (2) to a consumer in person at the consumer's home." Home Depot, Walmart, Costco, Kinetico: Do you really want to ban those services that are increasingly popular and highly legitimate, or do you want to take more of a scalpel to the truly unscrupulous individuals?

I had the pleasure of serving as consumer services minister. Back in 2002, we brought forward a 10-day cooling-off period. If you want to extend that, I'm happy to debate that, but that gave you a chance to get out of contracts after 10 days. We had significant sentences and fines, up to \$500,000 for a corporation or \$50,000 for a business. I think that's a much better way to approach this issue than the sledgehammer of banning all these businesses, potentially, and treating seniors as unable to advocate for themselves or make wise decisions.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. John Vanthof:** It's always an honour to be able to stand in this House and, today, to speak on Bill 193, the Door-to-Door Sales Prohibition Act.

I'd like to start off by saying I am in full support of this bill. This isn't the first type of this bill that's been brought to the House, because our member from Kenora—Rainy River also brought a bill forward trying to ban door-to-door sales of electricity contracts. In our part of the world, they prey upon seniors—they prey upon the people who aren't equipped to know what's really what.

I know that for a fact because recently, I had to help move my mom. She was living on her own, and she moved into a retirement home. We helped clean up her affairs for her home and, lo and behold, my mom was paying twice as much for electricity as she should have been because my mom had signed a door-to-door electricity contract without my knowledge.

That happens all the time. We should have moved on this before. I often quote my dad in this House; he would turn over in his grave if he knew that. He once told me, "If you don't have to go to the store to buy it, you don't need it"—and sometimes people would say politicians as well. No one is going to show up to your door with a

great idea. If you hadn't thought this morning to buy it, and all of a sudden at 10 o'clock, you have to buy it because it's the best thing that has ever happened to you, that's just not true. That's an issue.

I have another personal story. I'm not going to mention the company. I have three daughters, and all three of them worked for the same high-pressure door-to-door sales type company. Two of my daughters made a lot of money doing it and one was no good at it at all, but they trained specifically on how to do this. They trained specifically on where to pick and who to pick. There are certain markers where they say, "Oh, this one is kind of a waste of time." It's very, very specific. They put time into this.

Again—

**Interjection:** Very sophisticated.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** It is. It's very sophisticated.

It's not the same as going into a store or even looking on—if you're going to look on the Internet to buy something, you are still taking the initiative to go look yourself. That's the difference to me.

That's why I think this bill is a step in the right direction. As the member for Kenora–Rainy River with the electricity retailers showed, there's all kinds of these scams, for lack of a better word, going on all across the province.

I know when I first got elected five years ago, our constituency offices in my riding were busier breaking electricity contracts than anything else. And then it morphed into trying to figure out Hydro One billing, but that's another story. But electricity contracts—a lot of times, you yourself would have to call and then they would back off. But they were very, very aggressive—unbelievably aggressive.

There's a scam right now going on where people call you up, saying they're with Revenue Canada and that you haven't paid enough tax and that you need to give them your credit card number. That's going on as we speak. Again, when you say, "Well, that's crazy, and I'm not going to do it," but my mom would. I shouldn't have said that, because maybe now they're going to phone her.

That is the issue we're dealing with. I think that's what this bill is trying to attack. That's what the bill from the member from Kenora–Rainy River is trying to attack.

But I've got to bring one thing at the end of my remarks here.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Carry on; carry on.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** No, I'm about done.

This is a private member's bill, and I commend the member for bringing it. But the other side isn't the private member's government. They are the government and they can move on that. They can move on that much quicker than a private member can. I urge the government to take this initiative, and whether it's got Mr. Baker's name on it or anyone—it doesn't matter to me, and I don't think it matters to the member. But it matters to us all that people in this province are treated fairly and with respect and that they aren't purposely gouged.

We all know that this is going on. I see members on the other side of the House nodding. I see some members

on this side of the House nodding. We all know that this is going on. The government has within their grasp the power to do it. They could have done it a year ago; they could have done it two years ago; they could have done it five years ago. I believe they've been in power—correct me if I'm wrong—for a dozen years.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Way too long.

**Mr. John Vanthof:** My colour commentator here.

I urge the government that this is one thing that we have to move on, because they prey on seniors and they prey on low-income people. A lot of times, you have single moms, and they're really busy just trying to hold on to their life, taking care of their kids. Someone shows up: "Oh, have we got a great deal on this. This is going to save you all of this money." You know what? They don't have time to read the fine print. It looks good, they sign and, all of a sudden, they're trapped.

We all know this is going on. I commend that member. I hope that he can push his government to finally act on this important issue.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mrs. Cristina Martins:** I'm pleased to rise in the House today to speak to Bill 193, the Door-to-Door Sales Prohibition Act, 2016. I want to start off by congratulating and thanking the member from Etobicoke Centre for introducing this bill—a bill that I fully support. If passed, this bill would introduce legislation that would ban the sale, lease or rent of specific products at a consumer's home. Under the proposed legislation, air conditioners, water heaters, furnaces and water treatment devices would be prohibited, and a provision would also be included allowing the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to add more products to this list if necessary.

If a contract were to violate the proposed ban, the contract would be found to be void and the offender could be fined substantive amounts, ranging from \$500 to \$2,000 for individual offenders and from \$5,000 to \$25,000 for companies that were found to violate the law. The fines would increase with the increase in the number of offences.

There has been quite a bit of attention given to this bill since it was introduced by the member from Etobicoke Centre, and, as he so rightfully said, it has received quite a bit of media attention, as well.

But, Speaker, this is not a new issue or a recent issue. I recall knocking on doors in my riding of Davenport in 2011 and hearing about the frustration and embarrassment of constituents who felt as though they had been taken for a ride by door-to-door salespeople. I heard about the same frustration and embarrassment again when I knocked on doors in 2014. Since being elected, I continue to receive calls, emails and constituents in my office urging that something be done to address door-to-door sales. So I'm pleased with the introduction of this bill by my colleague MPP Baker, the member for Etobicoke Centre, which, if passed, would help tackle the issue by banning door-to-door sales of products.

1500

While this is an issue that goes across all ages, it's alarming to see how often door-to-door salespeople target those who may be more vulnerable, take advantage of them, force them to buy products or services at skyrocketing rates, and lock them into contracts with monthly payments and no way out.

As you know, Speaker, I represent the riding of Davenport, which is home to a large senior population and home to many immigrants and newcomers. It is home to many who speak English as a second language and home to many new homeowners, all of whom are particularly vulnerable. It is many of these people who fall prey to unwanted salespeople or marketers at their door, marketers who use misleading, aggressive and high-pressure sales tactics to entice innocent Ontarians into bad contracts that take advantage of consumers.

Speaker, if this bill is to pass, there would be no room for bad contracts or long contracts.

The bill would include additional penalties as well:

—If a consumer has already paid for the product, a refund for the total cost would need to be issued.

—If the product purchased needed to be replaced, the seller would have to reimburse any costs incurred in replacing the product.

—If a refund is not issued, the consumer may take legal action and would be entitled to receive double the amount paid under the contract.

—If legal costs are awarded by the court, the legislation would also ensure that it covers the incurred legal costs.

If Bill 193 is passed, the consumer will be protected from any cancellation charges or any other penalties if the contract is found to be void, and no further legal action can be taken against the consumer as a result of cancelling the void contract.

The proposed bill has been welcomed by many non-profit and charity organizations or groups, some of which are here today. I will name them: the Public Interest Advocacy Centre, the Consumers Council of Canada and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons, better known as CARP.

Wade Poziomka, director of policy and litigation at CARP, is quoted as saying, "The measures proposed are stringent but ultimately necessary to protect our members, some of whom have been taken advantage of time and time again by putting their trust in those who are undeserving."

Since the introduction of this bill, I have had a petition in my office that has been signed by many of my constituents in Davenport requesting that this bill pass. My constituents feel passionate about this bill and urge me to support it.

I fully support this bill and encourage all members of this House to do the same so that we can pass the bill through committee and protect those who are vulnerable to the predatory practices of door-to-door salespeople and marketers.

Once again I thank the member from Etobicoke Centre for bringing this bill forward.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate? I recognize the member from Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry.

**Mr. Jim McDonnell:** Thank you, Speaker; you got it right again.

I'm proud to rise to speak today to Bill 193, An Act to prohibit door-to-door sales of certain products. I'm glad that my colleague on this side of the House talked about some of the issues. We're talking about legislation about major items, and the definition of "major items" comes under some scrutiny. The passage of this bill opens things up for much more than we're actually talking about today, and that's dangerous.

Door-to-door sales is a very large industry in this province. It's used for lots of different roles. You look at businesses that are starting out. They may not be ready just yet to open up a retail outlet. The cost of operating a business and an office in this province has become very expensive under this government. We look at the payroll taxes—maybe they're not ready to hire somebody yet. When you start out, you don't have a lot of capital. The cost of heating in this province is about to skyrocket as the government is either going to abolish formally the use of natural gas or just tax it out of existence. They like the tax idea because they do get that money back.

There are different ways of doing things, and we really have to look at business in this province. It is very challenging today. If you're in a building, your property taxes are the second-highest in North America. Electricity, of course—that's the highest in North America. It makes it very hard to make a profit.

I know that my dad, back in the early 1960s, sold seed door to door to his local farmers for the supply management community. Will that be outlawed? That could be a major investment for farmers these days. Corn is generally sold by distributors who go door to door, and contracts for the seed are easily up around \$100,000 or more for product each year.

Those are things we should be looking at to try to help people. There is no question that there need to be restrictions. I know that they brought in Bill 55. I think that went quite far, especially with hot water heaters; we were looking at the ability to put a cooling-off period of 20 days for hot water heaters. I guess the member doesn't feel that that legislation was effective. But outright bans that take away people's employment are very dangerous. We see that bankruptcies are going up every year, and the last thing we want is to see them legislated in place. That's what this bill will do.

There are lots of things: As I say, we can work on educating the customer and giving them more rights, but outright bans are dangerous. I think we need to move forward, work on education, work on different roles in protecting the consumer, not just on major appliances but on many things. A protected consumer and an informed consumer is always the best route. It allows for flexibility. It allows the industry to grow and hopefully get large enough that they have their own retail outlets. Especially in the trades, it's very hard to go out and

purchase a large business. People like to start small and build big. That's kind of the history of this province.

Thanks very much for the opportunity to speak today, Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Well, Mr. Speaker—or Madam Speaker. My God, I'd better look over there next time.

I just want to put a couple of things on the record. Generally, of course, we're in support of this bill. As mentioned by my good friend and colleague the member from Timiskaming-Cochrane, Sarah Campbell, the member from Kenora-Rainy River, has actually passed such a bill at second reading. It has actually been in committee, where we've had some hearings dates. Certainly, a bill in the spirit of what Mr. Baker is doing is one that I think we can all support in this House, although I do think there is a good Conservative friend and colleague of mine who is going to vote against it. I kind of understand his argument, but I can't say I entirely agree. We do live in a democracy, and people have the right to exercise their rights if their business is going door to door. I understand the sort of charter approach to it, but the problem is that there is the theoretical and then there is the practical.

I think that the member from Timiskaming-Cochrane and others have raised, as well, that it is a bit of an art to get out there and target certain groups of people to take advantage of because they're less able to say no. We saw, as the member pointed out, that when it came to electricity marketing there was a huge amount of outcry on the part of the seniors' community for people who signed themselves in and locked themselves in to some pretty expensive electricity contracts that they were stuck with having to pay. It actually took members of the assembly coming into this House and raising it day after day in question period and at every opportunity that finally the Conservative government, I believe, or it might have been the Liberal government—I don't remember; it was one of the two—actually brought in a bill to somewhat regulate those people, because it was really getting to be a problem.

I remember, as other members in this House and, I'm sure, the member from Niagara—

**Mr. Wayne Gates:** Falls.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Just Niagara Falls? Okay.

*Interjection.*

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** I'm sorry: Niagara, and then there's Falls—I just want to warn you guys that if I ever decide to run for Speaker, you'd better make sure to test me for names of ridings and people, because I won't do too well.

My point is that we all get the same thing where people have really been put in a hard spot. I always remember one particular case that I had. She was an elderly person whose husband had died. She didn't have much of an income other than a survivor's CPP and old age. The difference that did on her gas bill, and her hydro bill as well, ate into the amount of money she had for her

co-pay for medication. When she went to get her co-pay to start her drug coverage for the year, she needed to pay, I think, \$100 or something at the time, and she didn't have the money and was quite hard-pressed and worried about what that was going to do to her health.

We worked something out with the pharmacist. I've got to thank a particular pharmacy, and I'm not going to name them because it would be unfair—he may not like that. He actually waived it and allowed her to get her prescription done. I think he probably paid it; it's more than likely what he did. Thank God for that. But the point is, it was all because of this type of action.

1510

In the last couple of minutes I have, I want to put on the record that people should understand the process for private members' bills. I would imagine this bill will get passed at second reading—we'll find out when we vote later. I don't see why we wouldn't. But the process by which to pass a bill is one that's very dependent on your own caucus, because the way it works is, normally we try to negotiate at the end of session, spring and fall, a package of one, two or three private members' bills from each caucus. The process is, your caucus has to put it forward. So I would suggest to Mr. Baker—I don't know the riding so I have to use the name.

**Interjections:** Etobicoke Centre.

**Mr. Gilles Bisson:** Anyway, I did it now, so I beg forgiveness.

What he should really do is start working on his own House leader and his own House team to make sure that his bill is one that's picked, because if it's not picked—and we don't have a say. We have nothing to do with it. Often, what happens is that members say, "Well, it's the opposition that's holding up my bill. That's the only reason," or, "It's the government that's holding up my bill, and that's the only reason it's not going forward." No. Your own caucus has to put your bill forward, and then the other two caucuses have to support it. You have two thresholds that you've got to get by: The first one is, your own caucus has to pick the bill as one that it's willing to go forward with; and number two, you need to make sure that you have the support of the other two caucuses. I don't see us as having a problem with your bill, so I'm almost prepared at this point to say this: I don't think it will be an issue for New Democrats.

But I also want to end on the point that the member from Timiskaming-Cochrane made: that at any time the government could stand and introduce its own bill. Maybe that's what the member is trying to do here, because often, members will introduce private members' bills as a way of raising the issue so that hopefully the government will bring a bill. I can tell you that the member from Nickel Belt, France Gélinas, has been very effective at bringing private member's bills in the House where the government actually moves forward and moves on the initiative themselves, and that's a good thing. There's nothing wrong with it. A good idea—it doesn't matter where it comes from and who acts on it; it's still a good idea, and if it's passed at the end of the day, that's a good thing.

I look forward to this bill passing and hopefully moving on this particular initiative.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** I have to say that I'm very, very pleased to rise today and offer my support to second reading of Bill 193, the Door-to-Door Sales Prohibition Act.

The first thing I would like to do, though, is acknowledge my colleague MPP Baker for his advocacy for seniors. We talk a lot in this Legislature about gender parity, and this young man spends one meeting every single month with his seniors' advocacy group. I just really would like to acknowledge him for that and for everyone to give him a round of applause.

*Applause.*

**Ms. Sophie Kiwala:** As the member for Etobicoke Centre has stated in his remarks, predatory door-to-door sales are an issue all across this province, including my riding of Kingston and the Islands. I have also heard about these challenges that seniors have faced in my community when I was working in a federal constituency office. We would have seniors who would come into the office in utter despair about having signed on to a contract that they couldn't get out of.

Most recently, there have been instances of door-to-door salespeople coming to people's homes and falsely representing themselves as being associated as employees of Utilities Kingston. These salespeople come into their homes and try to sell them water filtration systems that are not necessary. In order to pressure them into buying into these systems, they employ scare tactics, such as suggesting that the equipment doesn't meet safety regulations or that municipally treated water doesn't meet quality standards. We know that this is simply not the case. By presenting false information, they are, as MPP Baker has stated, able to prey on the most vulnerable in our communities and force them to buy expensive and unnecessary equipment.

In 2013, in fact, Angus Reid conducted a survey of Ontarians across the province on door-to-door sales. Their results found that 57% felt pressured into making a purchase or signing a contract when approached at their door. Furthermore, 35% of those Ontarians who made a purchase regret doing so.

As the member from Etobicoke Centre outlined, it is often the most vulnerable who are susceptible to these unsavory sales strategies. Seniors on fixed incomes, newcomers to Canada who do not yet speak English, or those who are simply unaware of their consumers' rights are pressured into expensive and lengthy contracts.

The bill is very comprehensive. It focuses on the four most commonly problematic sales: furnaces, air conditioners, water heaters and water treatment systems. It also encompasses other problematic items that may become apparent down the road.

And no, it is not going to encompass Girl Guide cookies or charities, so don't be mistaken about that or misled.

I lend my full support to this bill.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Shafiq Qaadri):** I thank the honourable member from Kingston and the Islands, and now return the floor to the member from Thornhill.

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** I'm very pleased to rise today and to speak on Bill 193, the Door-to-Door Sales Prohibition Act.

We've heard a lot of very interesting arguments up until now. The premise of this bill is that, too often, there are people who have buyer's regret when door-to-door salespeople come to their door with high-pressure tactics: "Sign now, or you're not going to get this deal," and that sort of thing.

I think we've all been in the position where somebody has come to our door with a clipboard, looking very official, and we have felt kind of uncomfortable. Even experienced people like us, who should know better, can sometimes be taken in by sales tactics.

But I don't know that the answer is to ban door-to-door sales, because the same high-pressure tactics could be used in malls, in restaurants or on the street. It's very easy to figure out where people are hanging out and to go after them if you're stopped from going to their doors. Of course, it's more convenient, and it will make things more difficult, but it doesn't mean you're banning door-to-door sales just because you stop people from going to the door. We're all quite aware of that.

I think the issue is that very often, we have people who are able to answer a door but may be suffering from—maybe they're a bit special-needs, if I can say that. Maybe they're getting a little bit older and their faculties aren't what they once were. We can't always be watching everybody, and we can't always be protecting everybody.

I think that maybe we need to look at something else. Maybe we have to look at stickers on the doors that say, "No solicitation if you come to this door, and if somebody signs a contract, we will be absolved from that." Maybe there's something we can work on that sends a message to people coming to the door that it won't be tolerated. I don't know how that could really work.

I think that public education is the best answer for these kinds of things. We're not really teaching our kids the dangers of having debt. We're not really teaching our kids the dangers of signing a contract, what it means and to read the fine print. I've had my kids sign contracts for summer employment, and I said, "Did you read the contract?" and they're embarrassed, because no. All they were doing was working at a summer camp. But in that contract, it says things that they might not be responsible for. That made me uncomfortable, that you raise your kids to think before they sign, and they go ahead and sign a contract.

We need more than Band-Aid fixes, and I have a feeling that this is a Band-Aid fix: You'll still be able to find seniors—you'll still be able to find vulnerable people—and sell to them, just at other places.

We just saw legislation pass for payday loans. Instead of working it so that banks could somehow supply low-cost bank accounts for people who don't have normal

bank accounts, we're just seeing that people can get a loan from one payday loan place and then go down the street and go to another payday loan place.

So it doesn't really solve the problem. I'd really like to focus more on public education.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Shafiq Qaadri):** I thank the honourable member from Thornhill and, for the purposes of further debate, invite the member from York South–Weston.

1520

**Mrs. Laura Albanese:** I am pleased to rise in the House today to speak in favour of the member for Etobicoke Centre's private member's bill that seeks to ban door-to-door sales. This is an important piece of legislation, in my opinion, because, as we heard, if passed, it would ban the sale, lease or rental of specific products at a consumer's home.

Mr. Speaker, I do join the group of concerned residents and advocacy groups in support of this bill. This legislation takes important steps to protect those who have been subjected to aggressive and coercive sales tactics.

The riding of York South–Weston, which I have the privilege of representing, has a high number of seniors and also new immigrants and people who speak English as a second language, who are vulnerable to these kinds of devious sales tactics.

When I say "devious," anybody could fall prey to these tactics. I had someone who knocked on my door and said that they worked for the government of Ontario. I knew better, but there are people who are new to Canada, and that could be very intimidating to them. They will let that person in.

Time and time again, my constituency office has had to come to the rescue of a number of constituents who have fallen prey to fraudulent sales representatives. Mr. Speaker, it is time for this practice to end.

I would like to demonstrate the significance of this legislation by providing just a few examples of how my constituents have been affected by these unfair schemes. For example, one of my constituents was targeted by a company that promised to install a new furnace and AC. The sales representative urged the constituent to sign the contract right there in front of him and threatened that, if he didn't sign immediately, he would lose the opportunity to receive the government's heating-and-cooling incentive. The constituent signed the contract and was told that someone would install the unit the next day.

Fortunately, the next day, he decided to call my constituency office. We promptly contacted the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services, who advised us that this contractor was not on the list of participating contractors in the heating-and-cooling incentive. As a result, the constituent immediately cancelled the contract and, luckily, there was no financial loss in this specific case.

However, not all of my constituents and people across Ontario have been so fortunate, Mr. Speaker, to survive without being robbed of hundreds of dollars. In another

instance, for example, I was contacted by the son of an elderly couple who were approached in their home by a sales representative of an HVAC company who inspected their eight-and-a-half-year-old furnace, which was supposedly installed by the same company in the past. The couple were told that the pressure switch and the flame sensor were not working and to pay \$600 right on the spot in order to fix it.

The next day, the furnace was not working. The same representative came back, could not get the furnace to work and advised the elderly couple that they needed a new furnace and took the old one with them. So this couple was left without a furnace and robbed of hundreds of dollars, and we had to contact, again, the ministry to fix the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I feel that this bill is really important for all of us and all the consumers in Ontario, and therefore, I support it wholeheartedly.

**The Acting Chair (Mr. Shafiq Qaadri):** I thank the honourable member from York South–Weston and now return for final response to the member from Etobicoke Centre.

**Mr. Yvan Baker:** I'd like to thank the members who spoke: the members for Niagara West–Glanbrook, Timiskaming–Cochrane, Davenport, Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry, Timmins–James Bay, Kingston and the Islands, Thornhill, and York South–Weston. I'd like to thank the government caucus and the NDP caucus for their support.

I do want to take the remaining time to address some of the points that were raised by the PC caucus members who are in opposition to the bill.

First of all, there was a point about seniors being empowered and that education is a tool that can be used to address this problem. Education is part of the solution; there's no question. Education on its own has demonstrated itself not to be effective enough, and that's really why I've brought this bill forward.

There are many measures that have taken place to educate people, and even the most educated and knowledgeable and people whom we wouldn't consider vulnerable have fallen prey to these tactics. I had a professional salesperson tell me that he got duped once by a salesperson who came to his door. So the idea we can educate people to prevent this, I think, is not accurate. It can help, but we need to take stronger measures, and that's why I have done this.

There's a comment about it going too far and that the door-to-door sales industry is large and creates a lot of jobs. I don't think that this is going to impact a lot of businesses. I think that businesses will have to adapt and they'll have to change—those who require the door-to-door method to sell. But there are other mechanisms to sell that won't materially impact their business. I used to be in business. I've run that assessment from my own perspective. I think that this is something that most businesses could accommodate. I think that it's a balanced approach.

There was a talk about a risk to Girl Guide cookies and anything like that. First of all, there are only four

product categories named here. They're the ones where we've had millions of dollars of complaints to the government, and fraud and misleading and predatory practices. The government would have the power under this bill to add additional product categories. But as with anything, they would have to be very careful. I can only imagine the outrage if any government of any political stripe tried to outlaw the sale of Girl Guide cookies. I'm not particularly concerned about that.

There was talk about the fact that we can sell in other places. The home is where people are most vulnerable, and that's why they fall—

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Shafiq Qaadri):** I thank the honourable member from Etobicoke Centre and, indeed, all members, for their submissions on Bill 193. As I mentioned, we will be dealing with that, as per protocol, at the end of private members' public business.

BRAIN TUMOUR  
AWARENESS MONTH  
AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LA LOI  
SUR LE MOIS DE LA SENSIBILISATION  
AUX TUMEURS CÉRÉBRALES

Mr. Ballard moved second reading of the following bill:

Bill 211, An Act to amend the Brain Tumour Awareness Month Act, 2001 / Projet de loi 211, Loi modifiant la Loi de 2001 sur le Mois de la sensibilisation aux tumeurs cérébrales.

**The Acting Speaker (Mr. Shafiq Qaadri):** Pursuant to standing order 98, the member has 12 minutes for his presentation.

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** I'm honoured to be able to rise and speak to my private member's bill, Bill 211, the Brain Tumour Awareness Month Amendment Act. If passed, this bill will proclaim the month of May as Brain Tumour Awareness Month. This is not new ground. Currently October is designated by the province as Brain Tumour Awareness Month. But by designating May, we will align Ontario with both British Columbia and the United States to create a North American Brain Tumour Awareness Month. I encourage all provinces to adopt a similar designation.

This joint co-operative coalition will create greater awareness of and support for this cause. It's important to remember and to recognize this awareness month is just the beginning of what needs to be done to address this terrible disease, a disease that impacts the lives of thousands of individuals and families each and every day in Ontario and across the country.

I'd like to thank a few key people for their support and guidance during the identification and creation of this bill: Amy Mathias, the digital community engagement coordinator from the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada; Maureen Daniels, a board member also from the foundation; Charles Mott, a brain tumour survivor from

my riding of Newmarket–Aurora; and Ben Diplock, a clinical researcher coordinator at Sunnybrook Research Institute, who is also a brain tumour survivor.

I can say, as an aside, Madam Speaker, that I've known Ben since he was just a young boy. He grew up on the same street that I grew up on in King City. My parents knew him, his sister and his parents quite well. They kept me updated as Ben moved through his struggle with a brain tumour and, ultimately, a fantastic victory.

I was honoured to have these advocates and survivors at Queen's Park to speak at my press conference last Thursday to launch the first reading of this bill. I was able to hear first-hand the struggles these survivors have overcome to be where they are today.

I would also like to welcome two representatives from the Brain Tumour Foundation here with us today: Tracey Jones, the national director of programs and services; and also Susan Ruypers, who is a research specialist at the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. Welcome to Queen's Park.

Brain tumours are not an issue that typically receive a great deal of attention from the public. The goal of this bill is to start that conversation about brain tumour awareness and to do that all year long, but specifically to kick it off each May. We know that this is an illness that can affect anyone. The brain is the most important organ in the body. It controls our five senses, as well as the ability to speak and move. Brain tumours are surprisingly common, and symptoms can be subtle. Every day, 27 Canadians hear the words, "You have a brain tumour." An estimated 55,000 people across Canada live with brain tumours.

One of these individuals was Evan Leversage. Evan was from the small Ontario community of St. George, near Brantford. Evan was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. In December 2015, doctors told Evan's family that they were unsure if Evan would live to see Christmas, and perhaps they should celebrate early. You'll probably remember the community's reaction. It came together in an outpouring of love and support for Evan and his family to ensure that Evan's celebrated that Christmas. An estimated 7,000 people joined the celebration, more than double the population of St. George. Supporters lined Evan's street, cheering as he passed by homes lit by Christmas lights, decorations and even fake snow. The photos of Evan sitting next to Santa in his sleigh with a smile on his face were magical. Sadly, Evan died December 6 of last year.

**1530**

Brain tumours also impact the strongest in our community. Newmarket Hurricanes hockey player Kevin Lord died in 2006 of brain cancer. Kevin was young, strong and fit. He was a dedicated athlete, teammate and friend to many in both the hockey and ball hockey communities. Each year, the Newmarket Hurricanes, an Ontario Junior Hockey League team, holds the Battle of York, a benefit hockey game that pits the Aurora Tigers against the Newmarket Hurricanes in memory of Kevin. A portion of the proceeds of the game go to Southlake

regional hospital's cancer centre. To date, this event has raised \$50,000.

Top of mind when we think about brain tumours, perhaps, is the announcement recently that the frontman for the Tragically Hip, Gord Downie, has an incurable form of brain cancer. We were all stunned. Gord's family, friends and fans have rallied around him as he vows one final tour with the band. It will be a remarkable tour.

Madam Spéaker, this is personal. My family has been touched by brain tumours. My wonderful, wonderful father-in-law, Marvin Green, died of a brain tumour 11 years ago. It seems like just yesterday. Another family member who's rather shy and didn't want her name used was diagnosed at age nine with a brain tumour. Her outcome was much brighter. She was successfully treated at SickKids. Now, as a vibrant young woman, she is expecting her first child soon.

When you look at the stories of Evan, Kevin and every other person who has lost the fight against brain tumours, and those who have survived, there are a few similarities. Brain tumours do not seem to target a specific type of person. They don't discriminate between young and old, women or men. It appears that there is simply no reasoning behind it.

This private member's bill is a product of conversations between myself and organizations such as the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada. This terrific organization was founded in London, Ontario in 1982 by Stephen Northey, who lost his eight-year-old daughter Kelly to a brain tumour. Dr. Rolando Del Maestro, a neurosurgeon, and Pamela Del Maestro, a neuroscience nurse, are also founders. Since its founding over 34 years ago, the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada has been dedicated to helping to find the cause and cure for brain tumours.

The Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada is also an active participant in the International Brain Tumour Alliance, which works with organizations in over 100 countries around the world. These organizations focus on raising awareness of brain tumours, advocating for positive change and supporting brain tumour research.

Through conversations with the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, I have learned that one of the biggest hurdles in finding a cure for brain tumours is the lack of data. To date, Canada has relied on data from a number of American and Canadian data resources to guide Canadian research, raise awareness, secure government funding and provide support programs. This data is not necessarily a true reflection of Canada's brain tumour community.

In moving towards a cure, the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada established the Canadian brain tumour registry in November 2012. This project will count every person with a brain tumour in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, which accounts for approximately 90% of the brain tumour cases in Canada. Having this information will accelerate advocacy efforts to ensure equal access to drugs, treatments and services for all brain tumour patients. Collecting this data will bring us one step closer to finding a cure.

Our government understands there are many steps that we need to take to fight brain tumours, including investing and learning more about the brain's function. That's why, in 2013, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Research and Innovation partnered to provide the Ontario Brain Institute with up to \$100 million—\$20 million a year—over five years. This funding is helping to sustain and expand the Ontario Brain Institute's coordination and commercialization support for neuroscience research.

However, there is always more work that can be done to further this conversation, which is why I'm presenting this bill. As I mentioned at the opening, for several years the month of October has been recognized as Brain Tumour Awareness Month. In an effort to raise the profile of this disease, the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada has chosen to highlight May as Brain Tumour Awareness Month, aligning itself with the United States and the province of British Columbia. If passed, this bill will see Ontario declare May as Brain Tumour Awareness Month to build awareness.

Personally, I'm putting forward this bill for Evan Leversage, Gord Downie, Kevin Lord, Charles Mott, Ben Diplock, Marvin Green, and every other person who has been touched by this terrible disease.

I want to make one final comment. Ben and Charles have proven that brain tumours are not always fatal. When an Ontario resident is told, "You have a brain tumour," it need not be a sentence of death.

I'd like to read this quote from brain tumour survivor Ben Diplock, the young fellow who grew up on the street where I was raised. At the press conference I held last week, Ben said this: "After the operation to remove my tumour, my parents were told that I would never ride a bike, drive a car, or learn at the same pace as my classmates. Yet, I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by health care providers, loved ones and mentors who instilled in me the belief that I was capable of anything to which I put my mind. And with this positivity, I learned to ride a bike, drive a car, and graduated from university with honours."

I might add that young Ben has dedicated his life to finding a cure for brain tumours. As I mentioned earlier, he's currently a clinical research coordinator at Sunnybrook Research Institute.

It's my hope that this bill, in some small way, will help in brain tumour prevention and cure and help raise support for those living with a brain tumour. I look forward to the support of those opposite and everyone in this House as we move this bill forward.

Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to rise today and discuss this important topic.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Tim Hudak:** I'm pleased to rise in debate on the bill to change Brain Tumour Awareness Month from October to May, standing in the name of the member for Newmarket. Of course, I'll be supporting this bill. The member told some very touching stories about how brain

tumours have impacted his own family. We've certainly all been deeply saddened by the news about Gord Downie, who has terminal brain cancer. The member also mentioned a nine-year-old—a happier story—who had a nice recovery, which is great to hear.

You may know, Speaker, that brain tumours are the leading cause of solid cancer death among children. For those under 20 years old, it has now passed acute lymphoblastic leukemia. They're the third leading cause of solid cancer death in young adults aged 20 to 39.

So I'll certainly be supporting the bill, and it's good to have the debate about the importance of recognizing brain tumours and support.

I'm going to add something to this, because it's a bit of a Malcolm Gladwell moment for me, a bit of a tipping point. I'll support this bill, but I do want to say—and I've been around here a long time—that I think the months are getting pretty tired. The month is in October, currently, which it shares with:

- International Trigeminal Neuralgia Awareness Day;
- International Day of the Girl Child;
- National Coming Out Day;
- International Day of No Prostitution, which, by the way, contests with International Sex Worker Rights Day, which takes place in March;
- International Stuttering Awareness Day;
- Intersex Awareness Day;
- World Vasectomy Day, which is not a day that I look forward to celebrating;
- World Food Day;
- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, when I guess you watch black-and-white televisions;
- Cyber Security Awareness Month;
- dental hygiene month;
- Health Care Food Service Month;
- outdoor lighting month—my wife would say it takes me 10 months to get the Christmas lights down, as opposed to a single one;
- Vegetarian Awareness Month, and I can't help but say, Madam Speaker, that in my experience, vegetarians have a way of making you aware of them all year round.

1540

If we change months to May, it would accompany:

- Star Wars Day—

**Mr. Han Dong:** May the fourth be with you.

**Mr. Tim Hudak:** —May 4, of course, is Star Wars Day;

—World Password Day, which I think would be tremendously helpful;

—World Turtle Day, May 23—although I'm surprised they only need a month. Given their pace, I would think it would take them much longer;

- Towel Day, May 25;

—World No Tobacco Day, May 31, and I think if people could abstain for one day, we probably wouldn't need that day at all, Madam Speaker—but I'm no doctor.

May also has Car Care Month; Better Sleep Month; World Hunger Day; Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Awareness Day; International Day

Against Homophobia and Transphobia; and Blue Cone Monochromacy International Awareness Day.

However, for politicians, we voted ourselves an entire week: Public Service Recognition Week, May 1 to 7.

All that having been said, I know the member has brought forward an important issue. I do hope that in the future, we will see more bills that would maybe start a new program. The member for Eglinton—Lawrence, for example, did so for women who have lost pregnancies before birth. He brought forward a very important program. I think that would be helpful.

A new program in this area would probably be helpful, or a new service, for example. I'd like to see a bit more strength in the bills as opposed to just naming months. I know the member is sincere about that, but I am going to propose, as my next bill, the “months are exhausted and need a break” bill.

In this assembly, honest to goodness, in this sitting, we have fully 24 awareness day or month bills. In the interest of time, I will not read them all, except to say that my favourite is Bill 179, Tomato Act, An Act to proclaim Tomato Day and to make tomatoes the official vegetable of Ontario, which I look forward to debating, because I think tomatoes are a fruit, not a vegetable. So I look forward to that debate.

Otherwise, congratulations to the member. Let's give the months a bit of a rest. There's a lot on their backs.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Peter Tabuns:** I appreciate the opportunity to rise and speak to this bill put forward by the member from Newmarket—Aurora. He is amending an existing Brain Tumour Awareness Month Act dating from 2001, moving the month to May rather than October.

First of all, I have to say I appreciate the fact that he's bringing this forward. I know that he's recognizing all those volunteers, all those activists and all those foundations that have done the work that they need to do—and I know they want to do much more—to move this issue forward, to increase research, to invest in treatment and to ensure that we have a sense of what causes this disease and how to approach it.

The member is quite correct: Many people survive brain tumours. There's a sense amongst many of us when we hear the word “cancer” that it's a final word, a word speaking to the end. In many cases it is, but it is not always the case. In fact, I want to say I have two of my constituents who have gone through very great difficulties with brain cancer, went on, and continued to go on and lead very decent, very joyful lives.

One constituent who, a few years ago, was diagnosed with a tumour on her brain stem—very difficult to treat, very difficult to access—actually went to California for, I wouldn't say “experimental,” but innovative keyhole surgery that allowed her to avoid far more substantial cutting of or destruction of brain tissue. She was able to come through that treatment with full restoration of her abilities, and a full life. It was a tough time for her, a tough time for her husband, and certainly, for them,

months—actually, when you think about it, years—of trepidation.

Another constituent was working with me on an issue in my riding about two years ago, and suddenly, one evening, just said, “I can’t make it to the meeting. I’ve got this brain tumour diagnosis. I’ve got to drop all this stuff. I’ve got to focus on my health. I’m going to have an operation within a week or two.”

I hadn’t heard from her for a while. I was canvassing through my riding about a month ago, going door to door, knocked on the door, and there she was, looking great. She had gone through a very difficult time, but was fully restored to all her faculties, the diagnosis behind her, her life ahead of her. The simple reality is that even with our limited knowledge now—and it is limited—the potential is there for effective treatment that allows people to take hold of and live their full lives.

We shouldn’t be surprised that people are working on this issue. People have worked on and continue to work on a variety of cancer issues. A number of years ago, Speaker—you and I were representing the same area at the time—I brought forward a bylaw in the city of Toronto to ban smoking in restaurants and bars. It was quite an experience because on the one hand, we had everyone who was pro-smoking or who, if they weren’t in favour of smoking, felt that having smoking was critical to the success of their restaurant or bar; and on the other hand, we had oncologists, surgeons and people who had spent far more than their fair share of time in cancer wards.

It was a profound battle because what I heard from the pro-smoking side was that if you stopped smoking in bars and restaurants in Toronto, the city would be hollowed out. Tourists would never come here again. It would be the end of economic life as we know it and the beginning of the dark ages. As you are well aware, Speaker, that in fact didn’t happen. Tourists still come to Toronto, birds still sing in the sky, the sun still shines, and people can make advances in dealing with environmental factors that cause cancer.

I don’t know enough about brain tumours; I don’t know enough about the environmental factors, the genetic factors, or others that play into the origin of the disease in any one individual, but it’s pretty clear that there are cancers, like lung cancer, that could be traced very commonly to environmental causes, tobacco smoke being one of them.

A number of years ago, I had the opportunity in this Legislature to bring forward a private member’s bill, the Community Right to Know Act, something that’s in place in California. We got through second reading here; we got through committee here. Unfortunately, we weren’t able to get it passed into law. But in California, if you have a product the use of which will expose people to carcinogens, you have to reveal that on the label of your product. What they found in California was that a number of companies reformulated their products to eliminate elements like benzene or other common carcinogenic substances that were in everyday products that people were using.

I think that enough people in this chamber and enough people in this community—and community writ large, Ontario—have had to deal with cancer that there is momentum and will to take the issue on, notwithstanding the fact that, from time to time, when you take on these big issues, you come up against those who have an economic interest in life and death continuing as they have for a long time.

I want to commend the member for doing this. I think every step that’s taken to enhance awareness of these threats to our lives and to enhance knowledge that will allow us to deal with this threat in the future is a positive step. Again, I thank the member.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Han Dong:** I’m very pleased to speak to this bill.

I just want to say to the member from Niagara West—Glanbrook, thank you for bringing forward your interesting perspective on this particular bill. Yes, the months may get tiring; maybe we just need more months in a year. Maybe that’s a solution. And the way I see it, a tomato is a vegetable.

But I’m very, very happy to get a chance to speak to this bill. I want to thank the member from Newmarket—Aurora and the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada for working together and putting together this private member’s bill. It makes a lot of sense. If we align the awareness month with the other jurisdictions, such as British Columbia and the United States, to create a North American Brain Tumour Awareness Month, it makes a lot of sense to me. One chopstick is always easier to break than 10. We all know philosophy has been brought up many, many times here.

1550

I was surprised when I learned that there are 27 people a day in Canada being told that they have a brain tumour. That works out to be just a little less than 10,000 Canadians a year. That’s a lot of families, a lot of people, who this is impacting.

Similar to other forms of cancer, I can only imagine, when you’re told that you have a brain tumour, the chill down your back—and when your family is told this news. It definitely brings a great, great impact to Canadian life.

But at the same time, I know that institutions such as Princess Margaret, SickKids and the University of Toronto—these great institutions in my riding are working very, very hard to find a cure for cancer. I’m very optimistic that in my lifetime, I will see that happen.

Someone close to me, my mother-in-law, and a good friend, works in the Mayo Clinic and tells me that their work is ongoing on oncology, and they think that although it’s very complex, they are hopeful, through the research work they do.

I want to commend the governments, both at the provincial level and the federal level, for putting resources behind research to find a cure for tumours.

I just want to recognize some of the good work that is being done by the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada.

They created something called the brain tumour handbook, focusing on adult patients and pediatric patients, and those diagnosed with non-malignant or low-grade brain tumours. This is very interesting.

I recently toured SickKids hospital. When I saw the good work done by the nursing team there, I was very pleased, but I can't help but be a little bit depressed, because I see little kids, and a lot of them are battling a life-threatening disease, and some are battling cancer.

I said to them that it must be very tough work. They told me that they're rather optimistic with it, and they said that kids are much easier to deal with than adults. Adults know what they've got and that it's life-threatening. They know that they are different than the rest of people. But the kids—not too much. They move on; they're happy. But although those were comforting words to me, it was heart-wrenching. It was very touching to hear that.

I absolutely believe that more resources should be put behind cancer research, to find a cure as early as possible.

I also want to take this opportunity to give credit to Gilda's Club Greater Toronto. They do good work, not just in my riding but across the city. Every year for the last three years, I have participated in their charity run—actually a walk, a 5K walk—to raise money and raise awareness for the good work they do. It's very similar to other not-for-profit organizations. They're out there to support cancer survivors. I just want to take this opportunity to give them a shout-out.

So, that's it. Thank you very much, Speaker.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mr. Jim McDonnell:** It's a privilege to rise today to talk about Bill 211, on a Brain Tumour Awareness Month.

Again, I'm of the same mind. Making a month, changing a month—I know that it creates an awareness for brain tumours, but I wonder sometimes what that will do. It's not something you can avoid. I think it would be much better to see money actually being put in some type of research. We see a lot of work left to be done.

The stats show that every day, 27 Canadians get diagnosed with a brain tumour, and 55,000 have them today. But I think it's more important when it's people you know who have it. I have a long-time friend who passed away just a couple of years ago, Donald George McRae. We called him "Tiny."

Tiny had three tumours removed, starting when he was about 24 years old. He passed away when he was almost 60. But it was always a threat that he was living with. It just shows how long—in some ways, you might say, he was one of the lucky ones, because he was able to live with it for a long time. Other people, I know, aren't so lucky. They find out with very short time frames.

Brain tumours—there could be other things such as Alzheimer's. There are lots of brain diseases and we aren't getting very far. I think it speaks to the fact that we need more than awareness. It's not something that you

can stop. It's something that people generally find out about because of the symptoms that come along with it, the headaches or other issues they have, but there needs to be more research and more action done on it.

Generally, they are very healthy people. A friend of my wife from school just found out that her husband—very active, loved to play golf, loved to travel—has brain cancer, had a tumour removed but, of course, the diagnoses are never great. I say that not because I think of him as any different than anybody else. I think that everybody in this House would probably have more than a handful of people they know who are either living with it or have suffered from it. It is a major disease and, unfortunately, usually fatal.

So it's something that I think we have to do more with than awareness. In this case here, there's nothing you can do yourself, so what we can do is take action and look at putting a stop to it and bringing research along so at least there's better treatment and so that it's not the death sentence that we see today.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Miss Monique Taylor:** I'm pleased to have the opportunity to speak today on behalf of the residents of Hamilton Mountain as we consider Bill 211, the Brain Tumour Awareness Month Amendment Act.

Currently, Brain Tumour Awareness Month is recognized in October in the province of Ontario and the purpose of this bill before us is to change that to May. I think it's for a good reason. May is Brain Tumour Awareness Month in both British Columbia and the US, and has been declared as such in Yellowknife, Calgary, Welland and Niagara Falls. By aligning Ontario with other northern jurisdictions, we increase the impact of brain tumour awareness, pooling our resources and working for a common good by recognizing it in the same month across the continent.

There are approximately 55,000 Canadians living with brain tumours and another 27 are added each and every day. The Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada was founded 34 years ago in London, Ontario. They raise funds to lead research into the cause of and cure for the disease. They also run support groups and conferences to share information. They distribute the BrainStorm newsletter as well as provide handbooks and an online peer support centre. The foundation is a wonderful resource for the brain tumour community and I thank them for their excellent work. Just last week, on May 29, the Hamilton-Niagara branch held their Brain Tumour Walk at Dofasco park and raised an amazing \$42,000 to help pay for all of the work that they do.

Speaker, as I was doing a bit of reading and research about brain tumours, I was surprised to find that there are 120 different types of brain tumours. We also know that there are a number of ways in which they can affect those they harm.

I want to recount the experience of one person I know who has been affected by a brain tumour. At the age of 10 months, his parents started to notice that sometimes he

would go into sort of a trance, just gaze into space with a vacant look on his face. It didn't happen often, it didn't happen regularly. There was no rhyme or reason; it just happened from time to time. When it did happen, they would pick him up and they would hold him close and a few minutes later he would come around and go back and play just as any other young child would do.

They took him to the doctor and after a short consultation they were told that what they were seeing was a learned behaviour. Their son, in just the few short months of his life, had worked out that if he wanted a cuddle all he had to do was gaze into space. They left the doctor's office hopeful that their son's actions had been explained, but they were not entirely convinced.

When an episode happened again a few weeks down the road, they held back. Difficult as it was to do, they left him alone. They watched him stand there with a blank gaze on his face and swaying a little. Slowly he came around and, as before, he carried on to play. It happened again and they made another appointment with their doctor. Again, the learned behaviour explanation was put forward. It takes a while to unlearn behaviour, they were told. More episodes followed, and more visits to the doctor. The symptoms remained the same.

Eventually, not long after his second birthday, they managed to get a referral to a pediatric neurologist. The neurologist couldn't see anything that might be causing these episodes, but they got him admitted to the McMaster Children's Hospital for closer examination and observation. After a couple of days, no explanation had been found and he was about to be discharged.

As you know, Speaker, McMaster is a highly respected teaching hospital and, just as luck would have it, a young student doctor noticed that there was a very slight limp in the young boy as he walked through the ward—not much, but enough to make people take another look.

1600

A CT scan was ordered and, as a result, it came back as a shock to the family. After trying to understand the medical terminology being used to explain the situation, the parents had to ask the doctor, "Do you mean he has a brain tumour?" "Yes," came the reply. It was about the size of a large orange.

Just as this was all being explained to the parents, suddenly the space behind them erupted in activity as doctors and nurses rushed to the child's bedside, as he had a serious convulsion. After the seizure had ended, the doctors had a chance to discuss the next steps and the parents were told that surgery was needed immediately. He spent the next five months in the hospital, during which he had three surgeries, lasting a total of 25 hours. The first was the longest and most traumatic. As the highly skilled team tried to remove the tumour, one of the major blood vessels began to erupt in his brain.

When the exhausted neurosurgeon, an exceptionally compassionate, honest man, came out, he told the parents that he didn't know if he had done their son any favours. He didn't know what the future held. The good news was

that the tumour wasn't malignant. It had grown throughout the pregnancy. It would be the same size no matter what time they had found it. He had a large tumour in his brain the size of an orange when he was born. The pressure within his small head must have been immense.

It was highly traumatic, and the effects remain. He is paralyzed on one side of his body—one quick second, Speaker; I'm almost there—and he has no peripheral vision on his left side. At the age of five or six, he started to have seizures. Medication was able to control it. Now he is able to live a pleasant, fulfilling life.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Thank you. Further debate?

**Mr. Yvan Baker:** It's a privilege to rise today to speak to the bill from my colleague and seatmate from Newmarket–Aurora. I have the privilege of working with Chris Ballard on a day-to-day basis and to speak with him regularly. I know how passionate he is about this topic. I know how hard he works on behalf of his constituents in Newmarket–Aurora. I think this is just another example of his good work, not just on behalf of his constituents but on behalf of folks across Ontario, on an issue that's important to so many people.

So many of the members who have risen have talked about brain tumours and the impact they can have on people. What I want to do is just focus my few minutes on how important it is that we do what Chris Ballard is asking us to do, which is to raise awareness about an issue that touches so many in such a profound way.

The first thing I wanted to note is that changing the Brain Tumour Awareness Month from October to May would align Ontario with both British Columbia and the United States to create a North American Brain Tumour Awareness Month. I really applaud MPP Ballard for this, to create this alignment, because with improved organization across North America, more people will get the opportunity to learn about brain tumours and recognize their devastating impact. I think that coordination is important.

We can all think of causes that we've raised awareness of across Canada or across North America and, as a result, we've seen positive results. In Canada, an estimated 55,000 people live with brain tumours, which is about 27 people diagnosed a day. That's a really incredible number. I was shocked to hear that. Of course, in the US, the number is about 10 times that amount.

Brain tumours don't discriminate. They affect people of all ages, but it is one of the most common forms of cancer in children.

Furthermore, coming from my background of business, I understand not only the communication reach that could be achieved by aligning these efforts but also the potential for sharing resources across jurisdictions. Rather than duplicating efforts across the year in different jurisdictions by having different brain tumour awareness months, aligning with the US, British Columbia and others will vastly improve the capability of our local volunteer organizations as well, such as the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, to utilize their resources to the best of their capability.

Our brain performs, of course, some of the most basic and important functions in our body. It gives us the ability to move, sense and feel emotions. It is its highly developed nature that sets us apart from millions of other living things on earth. That is one of the reasons why a brain tumour can have such a profound impact, not only on a person's health but on their quality of life. By aligning these efforts, I think we're doing an excellent thing.

I can just say that, in my community, one issue that has been of great concern is Alzheimer's and dementia. I recently had a consultation on our dementia strategy as a government. One of the things that came out of it was that someone who is an expert in the field got up and talked about the value of raising awareness in an aligned way. He spoke about the fact—in the context of Alzheimer's and dementia, but I think it applies to this as well—that through awareness, through communication, we not only educate, but we create impetus for actions to be taken that will resolve this problem. If we were to resolve this problem, we know that we would have a meaningful impact on tens of thousands of people across Ontario and a profound impact on the quality of life for the people of Ontario.

For that reason, I support this bill. I hope we can all support the bill that has been put forward by the member for Newmarket–Aurora.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mrs. Gila Martow:** I am very pleased to rise to speak on Bill 211, the Brain Tumour Awareness Month Amendment Act, 2016. This bill isn't to create a month of awareness; it is to change that month from October to May so it can be aligned with other jurisdictions so that we can have a North American awareness month.

I want to mention very quickly that there are probably other, more important bills that we could be debating, including my two private member's bills, which seem to be locked in never-never land.

We need to see time and money being spent on research, but this bill does support that, because what an awareness month does is help facilitate the charities that are fundraising to support the research we need. It helps them by having this month, because they also focus their resources and work together, and usually run their galas and fundraising programs during this month.

Just yesterday, I toured the University Health Network's new facility for research, which is very close to here—just walking distance. It's the Krembil research facility. They're struggling to get grants to do research. I specifically spoke to people about Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. These are all very important, Madam Speaker, as we know. There should be less effort made by these researchers just trying to get government funding; they should be focusing on the research itself.

As a former optometrist, I just want to mention that one of things optometrists do is diagnose brain tumours. I'm going to give just a little bit of a description of what

is called the optic chiasm. "Chiasm" is from the Greek letter that's like an X. We have the optic nerve from each eye crossing in the back of the brain into an X. Depending on people's visual fields, if they're losing part of their vision, we're able to test it now—we've got very fancy computerized equipment to do visual field testing.

I'm just going to say that one of the symptoms of a brain tumour is missing part of your peripheral vision. For example, if you're missing both the right and left from the centre out—everybody is going to go home, close one eye, point to something and do the little wiggle test to make sure they can see way out there. But if you're missing the right and left temporal quadrants, that is bitemporal hemianopsia, as we call it, and that means that the tumour is right in the middle of that X. Then, depending where you've lost vision—if it's a quarter quadrant, if it's both or a quarter here and a quarter there—that will tell us where along the nerve the tumour is. Then, people go for a CAT scan or an MRI and, sure enough, the tumour often ends up being exactly where we were able to predict.

So it's very important that people who are having headaches or loss of peripheral vision take it very seriously, and when they make those appointments, that they explain their symptoms carefully and don't just call and say, "I'm getting headaches." They have to say, "I don't normally get migraine headaches, and suddenly I'm having migraine headaches," and ensure that they're being seen quickly enough; to keep the pressure going until they're seen, because time is of the essence, as we know.

As we've heard, 27 people a day in Canada are diagnosed with brain cancers. This means that 55,000 are living with brain tumours. I think that, while there are many awareness months, as we heard, and some of them might sound a little peculiar, raising awareness of the symptoms of brain tumours—not just having a month to recognize that people have brain tumours, but using that awareness to warn people of what the symptoms are so they seek the medical attention, which is so readily available in our wonderful province, to ensure they get the earliest diagnosis and earliest treatment with the best outcome. That's what it's about, and I'm very happy to support this bill to move the awareness month.

1610

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Further debate?

**Mrs. Kathryn McGarry:** It's a pleasure to rise to add a few comments, on behalf of my constituents in Cambridge, to this very important debate this afternoon. I'm delighted to hear a lot of support around the chamber for changing Brain Tumour Awareness Month to May to align with other Canadian provinces. That's no small feat, and it really does help to add to this debate why we need to do it.

When I look down at the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada information sheet—it's very, very important to have this information out there. It's been said before in this debate that every day 27 Canadians hear the words

"You have a brain tumour." Now, think about that for a moment. Madam Speaker, I've been on the scene with families when they received that news from their physician, and it's devastating. It's devastating for children. I recall the first time that I had a little two-year-old at SickKids, and her parents were in the room with us when they had the devastating news from the physician. The father promptly fainted. This was a sign of how devastating it is to families.

As a nurse, I was only able to offer so much comfort there, and it was very helpful, then, to be able to give some of the resources to the families from organizations such as the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, to be able to go to them for information.

The second time I heard that was from one of my friends who had just reached her 40th birthday. She complained a bit about having her 40th birthday and feeling over the hill. About two months after her birthday, she had been having some symptoms back and forth and she got the news that she, indeed, had a brain tumour. She said to me, "You know, here I was complaining about my 40th birthday, but the alternative is far worse."

In looking at ways we can try and relieve some of the issues around this, in terms of emotions and in terms of awareness, one of the benefits that we have of being able to have a Brain Tumour Awareness Month is really getting the information out there. You may have noted that some of your neighbours, your friends and your family have been having some indescribable symptoms and you might think that maybe that's something happening in their brain, that maybe they need a bigger checkup. Maybe you need to go to a physician and say, "I noticed my family member is having a bit of a limp and their speech is off just a little bit or their vision is off a little bit. Can we please check for things?" It gives families a place to go to be able to look into some of the symptoms they might have, because as we know, early diagnosis means that we're certainly able to treat the disease far more.

In closing, I wanted to just give a shout-out to the member for bringing this forward. I certainly support this bill 100% and hope that all the rest of the members do in the House, too.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I will return back to the member from Newmarket–Aurora to wrap up.

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** It certainly was my honour to introduce this bill for second reading today. I just wanted to take a minute and thank all of the members who took time to focus on this bill: the members for Niagara West–Glanbrook, Toronto–Danforth, Trinity–Spadina, Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry, Hamilton Mountain, Etobicoke Centre, Thornhill and Cambridge. I certainly was taking note of what you were saying.

I know that there was, in good fun and a bit of jest, some discussion about every month and the number of things that are devoted to it, but I wanted to say that it's so important that this House recognizes these causes, if not for us, for the organizations that are represented,

because it gives them something to rally around. Let's keep that in mind as we move this forward.

I wanted just to state again, as we heard earlier, that a brain tumour diagnosis is not necessarily a death sentence. Thanks to modern medicine and the human spirit, we are tackling this disease and making great progress.

With second reading of the bill today, Madam Speaker, it gives me hope for a brighter future with the potential for bolstered research, knowledge dissemination and eventual changes in health care practices for a cure to extend and improve the quality of life.

I'd just like to say thank you to all past, present and future advocates who have made and will continue to make immense improvements in the lives of others. Frankly, I can't wait to see what the month of May will bring in the coming years.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** The time for private members' public business has expired.

#### HIGHWAY TRAFFIC AMENDMENT ACT (CARELESS DRIVING), 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LE CODE DE LA ROUTE (CONDUITE IMPRUDENTE)

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** We'll deal first with ballot number 48, standing in the name of Ms. McMahon.

Ms. McMahon has moved second reading of Bill 213.

Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carry? I hear "Carried."

*Second reading agreed to.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I need to turn to the member to ask which standing committee it should go to.

**Ms. Eleanor McMahon:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The bill will go to the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** The bill goes to the Standing Committee on the Legislative Assembly. Is it carried? Carried. Thank you.

#### DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES PROHIBITION ACT, 2016

#### LOI DE 2016 INTERDISANT LA VENTE DE PORTE-À-PORTE

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Mr. Baker has moved second reading of Bill 193, An Act to prohibit door-to-door sales of certain products.

Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry? I hear "Carried."

All those in favour of the motion, please say "aye."

All those opposed, please say "nay."

In my opinion, the ayes have it.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** We will deal with the vote at the end of this portion of the business.

BRAIN TUMOUR  
AWARENESS MONTH  
AMENDMENT ACT, 2016

LOI DE 2016 MODIFIANT LA LOI  
SUR LE MOIS DE LA SENSIBILISATION  
AUX TUMEURS CÉRÉBRALES

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Mr. Ballard has moved second reading of Bill 211, An Act to amend the Brain Tumour Awareness Month Act, 2001.

Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carries? I hear "Carried."

*Second reading agreed to.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Congratulations, Mr. Ballard. Can you please refer to which committee?

**Mr. Chris Ballard:** I'd like to have the bill referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Is it the will of the House? Agreed? I hear "Agreed." Congratulations.

DOOR-TO-DOOR  
SALES PROHIBITION ACT, 2016  
LOI DE 2016 INTERDISANT LA VENTE  
DE PORTE-À-PORTE

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** This will be a five-minute bell. Call in all the members.

*The division bells rang from 1618 to 1623.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Members, please take your seats.

Mr. Baker has moved second reading of Bill 193, An Act to prohibit door-to-door sales of certain products.

All those in favour, please rise and remain standing until recognized by the Clerk.

**Ayes**

Albanese, Laura	Hoskins, Eric	Milczyn, Peter Z.
Baker, Yvan	Hunter, Mitzie	Murray, Glen R.
Ballard, Chris	Leal, Jeff	Naidoo-Harris, Indira
Berardinetti, Lorenzo	MacCharles, Tracy	Potts, Arthur
Delaney, Bob	Malhi, Harinder	Qadri, Shafiq
Dhillon, Vic	Mangat, Amrit	Rinaldi, Lou
Dong, Han	Martins, Cristina	Sandals, Liz
Fife, Catherine	Matthews, Deborah	Tabuns, Peter
Hatfield, Percy	McGarry, Kathryn	Taylor, Monique
Hoggarth, Ann	McMahon, Eleanor	Vanthof, John

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** All those opposed, please rise and remain standing until recognized by the Clerk.

**Nays**

Arnott, Ted	Coe, Lorne	McDonell, Jim
Bailey, Robert	Harris, Michael	
Barrett, Toby	Hudak, Tim	

**The Deputy Clerk (Mr. Todd Decker):** The ayes are 30; the nays are 7.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I declare the motion carried.

*Second reading agreed to.*

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Pursuant to standing order 98(j), I will look to the member to ask which standing committee.

**Mr. Yvan Baker:** To the Standing Committee on Regulations and Private Bills.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Is it the pleasure of the House that—agree? Agreed.

ROYAL ASSENT  
SANCTION ROYALE

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** I beg to inform the House that in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, Her Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario has been pleased to assent to certain bills in her office.

**The Clerk-at-the-Table (Mr. Trevor Day):** The following are the titles of the bills to which Her Honour did assent:

An Act to enact the Ontario Trails Act, 2016 and to amend various Acts / Loi édictant la Loi de 2016 sur les sentiers de l'Ontario et modifiant diverses lois.

An Act to proclaim Correctional Services Staff Recognition Week / Loi proclamant la Semaine de la reconnaissance du personnel des services correctionnels.

An Act to amend several statutes and revoke several regulations in relation to energy conservation and long-term energy planning / Loi modifiant plusieurs lois et abrogeant plusieurs règlements en ce qui concerne la conservation de l'énergie et la planification énergétique à long terme.

An Act to establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on the jury recommendations made in the inquest into the death of Rowan Stringer / Loi créant un comité consultatif chargé d'examiner les recommandations formulées par le jury à la suite de l'enquête sur le décès de Rowan Stringer.

An Act to enact the Resource Recovery and Circular Economy Act, 2016 and the Waste Diversion Transition Act, 2016 and to repeal the Waste Diversion Act, 2002 / Loi édictant la Loi de 2016 sur la récupération des ressources et l'économie circulaire et la Loi transitoire de 2016 sur le réacheminement des déchets et abrogeant la Loi de 2002 sur le réacheminement des déchets.

An Act to amend the Smoke-Free Ontario Act / Loi modifiant la Loi favorisant un Ontario sans fumée.

An Act to proclaim a Workers Day of Mourning / Loi proclamant un Jour de deuil pour les travailleurs.

An Act to amend the Municipal Elections Act, 1996 and to make complementary amendments to other Acts / Loi modifiant la Loi de 1996 sur les élections municipales et apportant des modifications complémentaires à d'autres lois.

An Act to proclaim Ontario Down Syndrome Day / Loi proclamant la Journée ontarienne de la trisomie 21.

An Act to establish the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan / Loi établissant le Régime de retraite de la province de l'Ontario.

An Act to proclaim Treaties Recognition Week / Loi proclamant la Semaine de reconnaissance des traités.

An Act respecting the Association of Municipal Managers, Clerks and Treasurers of Ontario.

An Act to revive Stephanie Holdings Ltd.

An Act to revive Bill Bedford Professional Corporation.

An Act to revive 1709542 Ontario Corporation.

An Act to revive 839255 Ontario Inc.

An Act to revive Base2 eBusiness Solutions Inc.

An Act respecting The Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall.

An Act to revive 828117 Ontario Limited.

An Act to revive Bud Monahan Guitar Sales & Service Ltd.

An Act to revive 790186 Ontario Inc.

An Act respecting the Ismaili Centre, Toronto, the Aga Khan Museum and the Aga Khan Park.

An Act to revive 1733387 Ontario Corp.

An Act respecting the Boys and Girls Club of Niagara.

An Act to revive Harold Coles Inc.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** Orders of the day. I recognize the Deputy Premier.

**Hon. Deborah Matthews:** Speaker, I move adjournment of the House.

**The Deputy Speaker (Ms. Soo Wong):** The Deputy Premier has moved adjournment of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carry?

I hear "Carried." Have a great summer.

The House is adjourned until Monday, September 12, 2016, at 10:30 a.m.

*The House adjourned at 1629.*

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE DE L'ONTARIO

Lieutenant Governor / Lieutenante-gouverneure: Hon. / L'hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, OC, OOnt.

Speaker / Président: Hon. / L'hon. Dave Levac

Clerk / Greffière: Deborah Deller

Clerks-at-the-Table / Greffiers parlementaires: Todd Decker, Tonia Grannum, Trevor Day, William Short

Sergeant-at-Arms / Sergent d'armes: Dennis Clark

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
Albanese, Laura (LIB)	York South–Weston / York-Sud–Weston	
Anderson, Granville (LIB)	Durham	
Armstrong, Teresa J. (NDP)	London–Fanshawe	
<b>Arnott, Ted (PC)</b>	Wellington–Halton Hills	First Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House / Premier vice-président du comité plénier de l'Assemblée
Bailey, Robert (PC)	Sarnia–Lambton	
Baker, Yvan (LIB)	Etobicoke Centre / Etobicoke-Centre	
Ballard, Chris (LIB)	Newmarket–Aurora	
Barrett, Toby (PC)	Haldimand–Norfolk	
Berardinetti, Lorenzo (LIB)	Scarborough Southwest / Scarborough-Sud-Ouest	
Bisson, Gilles (NDP)	Timmins–James Bay / Timmins–Baie James	
<b>Bradley, Hon. / L'hon. James J. (LIB)</b>	St. Catharines	Chair of Cabinet / Président du Conseil des ministres Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Deputy Government House Leader / Leader parlementaire adjoint du gouvernement Leader, Official Opposition / Chef de l'opposition officielle
Brown, Patrick (PC)	Simcoe North / Simcoe-Nord	
Campbell, Sarah (NDP)	Kenora–Rainy River	
<b>Chan, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Markham–Unionville	Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade / Ministre des Affaires civiles, de l'Immigration et du Commerce international
<b>Chiarelli, Hon. / L'hon. Bob (LIB)</b>	Ottawa West–Nepean / Ottawa-Ouest–Nepean	Minister of Energy / Ministre de l'Énergie
Clark, Steve (PC)	Leeds–Grenville	Deputy Leader, Official Opposition / Chef adjoint de l'opposition officielle
Coe, Lorne (PC)	Whitby–Oshawa	
Colle, Mike (LIB)	Eglinton–Lawrence	
<b>Coteau, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Don Valley East / Don Valley-Est	Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport / Ministre du Tourisme, de la Culture et du Sport Minister Responsible for Anti-Racism Minister Responsible for the 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games / Ministre responsable des Jeux panaméricains et parapanaméricains de 2015
Crack, Grant (LIB)	Glengarry–Prescott–Russell	
<b>Damerla, Hon. / L'hon. Dipika (LIB)</b>	Mississauga East–Cooksville / Mississauga-Est–Cooksville	Associate Minister of Health and Long-Term Care (Long-Term Care and Wellness) / Ministre associée de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée (Soins de longue durée et Promotion du mieux-être) Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Minister of Transportation / Ministre des Transports
<b>Del Duca, Hon. / L'hon. Steven (LIB)</b>	Vaughan	
Delaney, Bob (LIB)	Mississauga–Streetsville	
Dhillon, Vic (LIB)	Brampton West / Brampton-Ouest	
Dickson, Joe (LIB)	Ajax–Pickering	
DiNovo, Cheri (NDP)	Parkdale–High Park	
Dong, Han (LIB)	Trinity–Spadina	
<b>Duguid, Hon. / L'hon. Brad (LIB)</b>	Scarborough Centre / Scarborough-Centre	Minister of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure / Ministre du Développement économique, de l'Emploi et de l'Infrastructure
Fedeli, Victor (PC)	Nipissing	
Fife, Catherine (NDP)	Kitchener–Waterloo	
<b>Flynn, Hon. / L'hon. Kevin Daniel (LIB)</b>	Oakville	Minister of Labour / Ministre du Travail
Forster, Cindy (NDP)	Wellsand	
Fraser, John (LIB)	Ottawa South / Ottawa-Sud	

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
French, Jennifer K. (NDP)	Oshawa	
Gates, Wayne (NDP)	Niagara Falls	
Gélinas, France (NDP)	Nickel Belt	
<b>Gravelle, Hon. / L'hon. Michael (LIB)</b>	Thunder Bay–Superior North / Thunder Bay–Superior-Nord	Minister of Northern Development and Mines / Ministre du Développement du Nord et des Mines
Gretzky, Lisa (NDP)	Windsor West / Windsor-Ouest	
Hardeman, Ernie (PC)	Oxford	
Harris, Michael (PC)	Kitchener–Conestoga	
Hatfield, Percy (NDP)	Windsor–Tecumseh	
Hillier, Randy (PC)	Lanark–Frontenac–Lennox and Addington	
Hoggarth, Ann (LIB)	Barrie	
Horwath, Andrea (NDP)	Hamilton Centre / Hamilton-Centre	Leader, Recognized Party / Chef de parti reconnu Leader, New Democratic Party of Ontario / Chef du Nouveau parti démocratique de l'Ontario
<b>Hoskins, Hon. / L'hon. Eric (LIB)</b>	St. Paul's	Minister of Health and Long-Term Care / Ministre de la Santé et des Soins de longue durée
Hudak, Tim (PC)	Niagara West–Glanbrook / Niagara- Ouest–Glanbrook	
<b>Hunter, Hon. / L'hon. Mitzie (LIB)</b>	Scarborough–Guildwood	Associate Minister of Finance (Ontario Retirement Pension Plan) / Ministre associée des Finances (Régime de retraite de la province de l'Ontario)
<b>Jaczek, Hon. / L'hon. Helena (LIB)</b>	Oak Ridges–Markham	Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Minister of Community and Social Services / Ministre des Services sociaux et communautaires
Jones, Sylvia (PC)	Dufferin–Caledon	Deputy Leader, Official Opposition / Chef adjointe de l'opposition officielle
Kiwala, Sophie (LIB)	Kingston and the Islands / Kingston et les Îles	
Kwinter, Monte (LIB)	York Centre / York-Centre	
Lalonde, Marie-France (LIB)	Ottawa–Orléans	
<b>Leal, Hon. / L'hon. Jeff (LIB)</b>	Peterborough	Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs / Ministre de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Affaires rurales
<b>Levac, Hon. / L'hon. Dave (LIB)</b>	Brant	Speaker / Président de l'Assemblée législative
<b>MacCharles, Hon. / L'hon. Tracy (LIB)</b>	Pickering–Scarborough East / Pickering–Scarborough-Est	Minister of Children and Youth Services / Ministre des Services à l'enfance et à la jeunesse Minister Responsible for Women's Issues / Ministre déléguée à la Condition féminine
MacLaren, Jack (PC)	Carleton–Mississippi Mills	
MacLeod, Lisa (PC)	Nepean–Carleton	
Malhi, Harinder (LIB)	Brampton–Springdale	
Mangat, Amrit (LIB)	Mississauga–Brampton South / Mississauga–Brampton-Sud	
Mantha, Michael (NDP)	Algoma–Manitoulin	
Martins, Cristina (LIB)	Davenport	
Martow, Gila (PC)	Thornhill	
<b>Matthews, Hon. / L'hon. Deborah (LIB)</b>	London North Centre / London- Centre-Nord	Deputy Premier / Vice-première ministre Minister Responsible for the Poverty Reduction Strategy / Ministre responsable de la Stratégie de réduction de la pauvreté President of the Treasury Board / Présidente du Conseil du Trésor Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry / Ministre des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts
<b>Mauro, Hon. / L'hon. Bill (LIB)</b>	Thunder Bay–Atikokan	
McDonnell, Jim (PC)	Stormont–Dundas–South Glengarry	
McGarry, Kathryn (LIB)	Cambridge	
McMahon, Eleanor (LIB)	Burlington	
<b>McMeekin, Hon. / L'hon. Ted (LIB)</b>	Ancaster–Dundas–Flamborough– Westdale	Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing / Ministre des Affaires municipales et du Logement
McNaughton, Monte (PC)	Lambton–Kent–Middlesex	
<b>Meilleur, Hon. / L'hon. Madeleine (LIB)</b>	Ottawa–Vanier	Attorney General / Procureure générale Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs / Ministre déléguée aux Affaires francophones
Milczyn, Peter Z. (LIB)	Etobicoke–Lakeshore	
Miller, Norm (PC)	Parry Sound–Muskoka	

Member and Party / Député(e) et parti	Constituency / Circonscription	Other responsibilities / Autres responsabilités
<b>Miller, Paul (NDP)</b>	Hamilton East–Stoney Creek / Hamilton-Est–Stoney Creek	Third Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House / Troisième vice-président du comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
<b>Moridi, Hon. / L'hon. Reza (LIB)</b>	Richmond Hill	Minister of Research and Innovation / Ministre de la Recherche et de l'Innovation Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities / Ministre de la Formation et des Collèges et Universités
Munro, Julia (PC)	York–Simcoe	
<b>Murray, Hon. / L'hon. Glen R. (LIB)</b>	Toronto Centre / Toronto-Centre	Minister of the Environment and Climate Change / Ministre de l'Environnement et de l'Action en matière de changement climatique
Naidoo-Harris, Indira (LIB)	Halton	
<b>Naqvi, Hon. / L'hon. Yasir (LIB)</b>	Ottawa Centre / Ottawa-Centre	Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services / Ministre de la Sécurité communautaire et des Services correctionnels Government House Leader / Leader parlementaire du gouvernement
Natyshak, Taras (NDP)	Essex	
<b>Nicholls, Rick (PC)</b>	Chatham-Kent–Essex	Second Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole House / Deuxième vice-président du comité plénier de l'Assemblée législative
<b>Orazietti, Hon. / L'hon. David (LIB)</b>	Sault Ste. Marie	Minister of Government and Consumer Services / Ministre des Services gouvernementaux et des Services aux consommateurs
Pettapiece, Randy (PC)	Perth–Wellington	
Potts, Arthur (LIB)	Beaches–East York	
Qaadri, Shafiq (LIB)	Etobicoke North / Etobicoke-Nord	
Rinaldi, Lou (LIB)	Northumberland–Quinte West	
<b>Sandals, Hon. / L'hon. Liz (LIB)</b>	Guelph	Minister of Education / Ministre de l'Éducation
Sattler, Peggy (NDP)	London West / London-Ouest	
Scott, Laurie (PC)	Haliburton–Kawartha Lakes–Brock	Deputy Opposition House Leader / Leader parlementaire adjointe de l'opposition officielle
<b>Sergio, Hon. / L'hon. Mario (LIB)</b>	York West / York-Ouest	Minister Responsible for Seniors Affairs Minister Without Portfolio / Ministre sans portefeuille Deputy Leader, Recognized Party / Chef adjoint du gouvernement
Singh, Jagmeet (NDP)	Bramalea–Gore–Malton	
Smith, Todd (PC)	Prince Edward–Hastings	
<b>Sousa, Hon. / L'hon. Charles (LIB)</b>	Mississauga South / Mississauga-Sud	Minister of Finance / Ministre des Finances
Tabuns, Peter (NDP)	Toronto–Danforth	
Takhar, Harinder S. (LIB)	Mississauga–Erindale	
Taylor, Monique (NDP)	Hamilton Mountain	
Thibeault, Glenn (LIB)	Sudbury	
Thompson, Lisa M. (PC)	Huron–Bruce	
Vanthof, John (NDP)	Timiskaming–Cochrane	
Vernile, Daiene (LIB)	Kitchener Centre / Kitchener-Centre	
Walker, Bill (PC)	Bruce–Grey–Owen Sound	
Wilson, Jim (PC)	Simcoe–Grey	Opposition House Leader / Leader parlementaire de l'opposition officielle
<b>Wong, Soo (LIB)</b>	Scarborough–Agincourt	Deputy Speaker / Vice-présidente
<b>Wynne, Hon. / L'hon. Kathleen O. (LIB)</b>	Don Valley West / Don Valley-Ouest	Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs / Ministre des Affaires intergouvernementales Premier / Première ministre Leader, Liberal Party of Ontario / Chef du Parti libéral de l'Ontario
Yakabuski, John (PC)	Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke	
Yurek, Jeff (PC)	Elgin–Middlesex–London	
<b>Zimmer, Hon. / L'hon. David (LIB)</b>	Willowdale	Minister of Aboriginal Affairs / Ministre des Affaires autochtones
Vacant	Scarborough–Rouge River	

**STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
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Arthur Potts, Todd Smith  
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Sophie Kiwala, Michael Mantha  
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Soo Wong  
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des comptes publics**

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Chris Ballard, John Fraser  
Ernie Hardeman, Percy Hatfield  
Lisa MacLeod, Harinder Malhi  
Peter Z. Milczyn, Julia Munro  
Lou Rinaldi  
Committee Clerk / Greffière: Valerie Quioc Lim

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permanent des règlements et des projets de loi d'intérêt privé**

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Amrit Mangat, Kathryn McGarry  
Indira Naidoo-Harris, Bill Walker  
Jeff Yurek  
Committee Clerk / Greffier: Christopher Tyrell

**Standing Committee on Social Policy / Comité permanent de  
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Vice-Chair / Vice-président: Jagmeet Singh  
Granville Anderson, Lorne Coe  
Vic Dhillon, John Fraser  
Marie-France Lalonde, Gila Martow  
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